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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
Do you think a  
180-day delay in  
the implementation  
of federalization will  
help the CNMI?

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to cast your vote.

## INSIDE



### Crash Cause

A pilot's change of course has emerged as a potentially crucial factor in the Butte cemetery crash.

**NATION...Page 15**



### Shelved Plan

Organizers shelve a peace conference because South Africa's government won't allow the Dalai Lama to attend.

**WORLD...Page 16**



### Kerala Trip

It was time to step into a slower lane and begin to recuperate. It was time to go to South India.

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Ex-convict allegedly hits wife with wooden chair. **PAGE 3**

CPA now 90 pct. compliance with bond indenture. **PAGE 5**

DUE TO REGULATIONS TAKING EFFECT APRIL 15

## Boat operators without a TWIC card to be banned

Many Filipino, Japanese boat drivers could lose jobs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
[haidee\\_eugenio@saipantribune.com](mailto:haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

**M**any boat drivers in the CNMI licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard will not be allowed to operate vessels by April 15 without a Transportation Worker Identification

### RELATED NEWS

Marine sports forum  
draws a crowd. **PAGE 2**

Credential card, which is only given to U.S. citizens and those with federal work visas.

The new federal requirement may  
**See BOAT on Page 4**

## Tinian ILS project is cancelled

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
[moneth\\_deposa@saipantribune.com](mailto:moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Citing the depressed state of tourism on the island, the Tinian Legislative Delegation recently cancelled the Tinian Airport's instrument landing system project.

Sen. Joseph Mendiola, chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation



Mendiola

**See TINIAN on Page 4**



AP

In this undated photo released from the Conservation International, a large tree frog, *Nyctimystes* sp., with enormous eyes that was discovered in a rainforest in Papua New Guinea's highlands wilderness in 2008 is shown.

## Scientists find new species in PNG region

### ON THE NET

Conservation International:  
<http://www.conservation.org/Pages/default.aspx>

By KRISTEN GELINEAU  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**SYDNEY (AP)**—A brilliant green tree frog with huge black eyes, jumping spiders and a striped gecko are among more than 50 new animal species scientists have discovered in a remote, mountainous region of Papua New Guinea.

The discoveries were announced Wednesday by Washington D.C.-based Conservation International, which spent the past several months analyzing more

**See SCIENTISTS on Page 4**



### MARCHING IN THE RAIN

Despite the rain, over a thousand students holding anti-smoking placards marched from American Memorial Park to the Carolinian Village in Garapan yesterday afternoon for the 4th Annual Kick Butts Day. The CNMI Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, which organized the event, aims to raise awareness about the ill effects of cigarettes among the youth. The march was followed by a dance competition, a pick butt contest, and a JROTC drill competition, along with educational exhibitions and live entertainment.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## Budget requests for 2010 already \$28M over

By KRISTI EATON  
[kristi\\_eaton@saipantribune.com](mailto:kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Initial budget submissions for Fiscal Year 2010 show government departments and agencies are already \$28 million over the projected funds to be collected.

As the Fitial administration prepares to submit its initial proposal to the Legislature, Esther Fleming, the governor's special assistant for administration, said the departments and agencies are currently seeking a total of \$176 million—\$28 million more than the \$148 million projected revenue.

jected revenue.

"It's too high and we can not use that," she said.

The administration is expected to present its budget plan to the Legislature by April 1. By July 1, the Legislature sets

**See BUDGET on Page 4**



# Local

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

At least 106 marine tour operators, boat drivers, tour agents, and federal and local government representatives took part in the Marine Sports Forum which tackled industry issues from in-water refueling to pricing, customer solicitation, boating safety regulations, liability insurance coverage and permitting.

Dr. John B. Joyner, director of the Coastal Resources Management, which organized the forum, said holding an industry forum like this provides for sharing of information among marine tour operators and local and federal agencies.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

At least 106 marine sports operators, boat captains, scuba divers, tour guides, tour operators and local and federal government agency representatives take part in the Coastal Resources Management's Marine Sports Forum at the Palms Resort in San Roque yesterday.

"Marine sports are vital to economy of the CNMI," said Joyner, adding that it is important that the marine tours industry regulate itself.

Rep. Joseph C. Reyes, chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, encouraged marine operators to "work together" to address common issues so that the industry can further thrive in these tough economic times.

He said among the key issues is the proliferation of "shobais" or those who illegally solicit customers for marine tours or provide customers for these tours and charging exorbitant fees compared to licensed operators and agents.

In his presentation, Reyes also talked about House Bill 16-132 or the Tour Operator and Tour Guide Regulatory Act of 2008 which he introduced. The bill authorizes the Marianas Visitors Authority to regulate tour operators and tour guides.

Bill Owens, owner of B Sea Sunsports, said he wants the Department of Commerce and the Northern Marianas Insurance Association to get involved in identifying the insurance companies that offer the specific types of insurance required among marine operators by Commerce.

"Commerce is requiring local provider insurance; however, there is specialized insurance coverage in my industry that these local brokers or providers do not offer...I like to see Commerce get involved in

designating and scrutinizing which insurance we can use ...And I like to see the entire group of marine operators on the same level playing field," said Owens, whose company has been operating on Saipan for 16 years.

Commerce's Sixto Igisomar and NMIA president Eli Buenaventura were among the resource speakers at the forum.

Marvin Seman, an environmental specialist at the Division of Environmental Quality, talked about environmental crimes at the forum, including oil spills, illegal dumping, unpermitted land clearing and illegal burning of hazardous materials.

In an interview, Seman said the number of violations has gone up but most violators admit to their wrongdoing, clean up the mess created and pay the fine. Only the most severe environment cases get prosecuted, he said.

During the afternoon session, forum participants discussed at least 16 industry issues including boating safety regulations, liability insurance coverage, jetski waiting list, beach driving and parking, pricing, and solicitation.

One of the key issues at the forum was the new federal regulations requiring boat drivers to have a Transportation Worker Identification Credentials card.

## Alien worker allegedly overstayed for 6 years

Immigration agents arrested early this week a maintenance repairer who has allegedly overstayed in the CNMI for six years already.

In yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman imposed a \$100 cash plus \$900 unsecured bond for the temporary release of Babul Miah.

Wiseman ordered the 39-year-old Bangladeshi to appear in court on April 9 at 2pm to explain why he should not be deported.

Among his bail conditions,

Munson required Miah to proceed to the Immigration Office every Friday.

Miah claims he lost his passport.

Immigration investigator John Peter stated that Miah's entry permit expired on Feb. 6, 2003. Peter said Miah does not have any pending labor case, was not issued any temporary work authorization, and does not have any pending employment application. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

## Bangladeshis on Saipan mark Independence Day

Hundreds of Bangladeshis on Saipan join their compatriots around the globe today in celebrating their 38th Independence Day.

Raki Bul Islam Minto, one of the organizers of the Bangladesh Cultural Group, expects some 300 members of the community to take part in tonight's celebration which will include cultural songs, music, inspirational talks, food and a time to meet each other once again.

The celebration will be held at a former auto shop near the Bank of Saipan building in Garapan at 8pm.

"We invite members of the Bangladeshi community to join

us," Minto said yesterday.

Community members come together during the celebration which started in the CNMI in 1995, Minto added.

It was on March 26, 1971 that Bangladesh declared its independence from Pakistan following years of political and economic discrimination by West Pakistan.

Official figures say about 3 million people were killed and millions more displaced during an ensuing nine-month war ending on Dec. 16, 1971.

East Pakistan officially became the nation of Bangladesh on Dec. 16, 1971. **(Haidee V. Eugenio)**

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# Munson resets trial of Villagomez, co-defendants

## Frica wants to stop deficit spending

Sen. Maria Frisca Pangelinan hopes to introduce an initiative barring the government from future deficit spending.

The current law states that if a budget is not passed, appropriations are based on the last-passed budget. But with revenue declining each year, not passing a budget means the government often spends more than it really has.

"Right now... the law says if we do not pass a budget we spend at the same level," she said. "It allows for deficit spending. We shouldn't do that. If we do deficit spending nobody is held liable. We need to correct that and say, 'If the last budget that was approved is higher than the projected revenue of the current budget, then we should follow the current budget projected revenue.'"

Since 1994 the government has been accumulating a fund balance deficit. As of Sept. 30, 2008, the deficit balance is estimated at \$229 million and counting. The CNMI overspent by \$4.5 million during the first quarter of this fiscal year.

The government had been on a continuing appropriation budget until recently, when a new Fiscal Year 2009 budget law of \$156.76 million was passed.

Since a budget was not passed for FY 2008, the CNMI had been following the 2007 budget of \$163 million.

Lawmakers probably never imagined they would have to worry about the tax base declining, Pangelinan said.

"Nobody ever anticipated that it would be lower, so there's that gap of a deficit. I think it's necessary to cut off this deficit spending, and it ties off the hand," she said of the initiative she hopes to get passed before she leaves office.

The finance secretary, Pangelinan said, probably feels it is okay to incur deficit spending because the Constitution allows it.

It's been going on for a while, she added.

"Unfortunately, when you really look at deficit spending, it occurred during the bubble economy, when we had the money," she said. "We had money coming in that we were not monitoring, but you know it catches up. Like everything else, if you keep taking the risk it will not bounce, it will bounce. What is happening now is we did not save for a tough time like this."

Creating a reserve fund to cover deficits is also an option, Pangelinan said, adding that most states have such a fund. *(Kristi Eaton)*



Pangelinan

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson has rescheduled the time for the jury trial of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and his co-defendants James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santos.

Munson said the trial on Monday, March 30, will now begin at 1pm, not 9am as originally scheduled.

Munson did not state in the one-page amended order the reason for the new schedule.

The judge has summoned 227

prospective jurors, from among whom a panel of jurors will be selected to decide the fate of Villagomez and his co-defendants.

In a federal jury selection in a criminal case, the judge will select 12 jurors plus one or two alternates from the jury pool.

After the jury selection, the prosecution

and defense lawyers will then hold their opening arguments.

Meanwhile, court records show that the U.S. government has filed a motion to seal the prosecution's witness list. The government also submitted proposed jury instructions.

The Santos couple, through their counsel, also filed their respective witness list as well as proposed jury instructions and proposed verdict forms.



Munson

Villagomez, through attorney Joey San Nicolas, filed proposed verdict forms.

The indictment alleged that Villagomez accepted a \$15,000 bribe from the Santos couple for approving the purchase of Rydlyme, a cleaning and descaling chemical, for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. The couple was also charged with bribery for allegedly offering the \$15,000 to Villagomez. The three pleaded not guilty. *(Ferdie dela Torre)*

## Ex-convict allegedly hits wife with wooden chair

Police arrested on Tuesday an ex-convict who allegedly used a wooden chair to hit his common-law wife on the head, even as she was waiting for him so they could take their sick child to the hospital.

After the victim fell to the ground, Antonio Mendiola Camacho, 35, was allegedly heard laughing as he got into the car and left the house.

Camacho was served with an

arrest warrant for assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace in Chalan Laulau.

Police said the victim had swelling on the left side of her head above the ear, but she refused medical treatment.

Camacho was taken before Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report that a police

officer responded to the residence in As Matuis after receiving a report about a disturbance on Saturday at 11:03pm.

The victim told police that Camacho arrived home drunk so she asked him why he came home late as she wanted to bring their feverish child to the hospital.

The defendant instead offered his wife a drink. She took the beer and threw it away.

Camacho allegedly grabbed

an unopened can of beer and threw it at her. She, however, managed to avoid being hit.

Camacho allegedly grabbed a wooden chair and hit her on the head. The victim felt dizzy and fell to the ground. She said she heard her husband laughing and leaving the house.

The defendant reportedly has previous convictions for kidnapping, assault and battery, and sexual assault. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



**ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)**  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951  
Phone: 1.670.532.7242  
Email: rotacommision@gmail.com

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING FOR FRIDAY, 27 MARCH 2009.

**DATE:** Friday, 27 March 2009  
**TIME:** 1:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building  
Rota Casino Gaming Commission's Office  
Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951

### AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Adoption of Minutes
- V. Chairman's Report
- VI. Old Business
  1. Website Development
  2. RCGC Funding
- VII. New Business
  1. Casino Application
  2. Printing of RCGC Forms
- VIII. Miscellaneous
- IX. Adjournment

\*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

**DIEGO M. SONGAO**  
Chairman

24 March 2009



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EDUARD "THE LANDSLIDE" FOLAYANG (USCC)  
VS.  
JEROME NORITA (MARIANAS ELITE)

**MAIN EVENT**

KELVIN "THE BIG HIT" (MARIANAS ELITE)  
VS.  
ED CARPENTER (CHICAGO)

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|---|--|--|--|

FEMALE FIGHT: TARA "TARANTULA" NAUMAULEG VS. KRISTI HALSTEAD



**MARCH 28, 2009 @ ROYAL TAGA HALL, WORLD RESORT. DOORS OPEN AT 6PM**














# Tinian's incumbent officials to run again

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Three incumbent Tinian officials will seek re-election this November under

the Covenant Party.

Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas, Sen. Joseph Mendiola, and Rep. Edwin Aldan all declared their intention to run for another term during a party

## RELATED NEWS

■ Shai elected as Tinian Republican Party president.

PAGE 13



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The four Tinian officials who will run in the general election this November under the Covenant Party banner. From left are Sen. Joseph Mendiola, Rep. Edwin Aldan, director Joaquin Borja, and Mayor Jose San Nicolas.

## SCIENTISTS

From Page 1

than 600 animal species the group found during its expedition to the South Pacific island nation in July and August.

Of the animals discovered, 50 spider species, three frogs and a gecko appear to have never been described in scientific literature before, the conservation group said. The new frogs include a tiny brown animal with a sharp chirp, a bug-eyed bright green tree frog and another frog with a loud ringing call. One of the jumping spiders is shiny

and pale green, while another is furry and brown.

"If you're finding things that are that big and that spectacular that are new, that's really an indication that there's a lot out there that we don't know about," said expedition leader Steve Richards. "It never ceases to amaze me the spectacular things that are turning up from that island."

The findings are significant, particularly the discovery of the new frog species, said Craig Franklin, a zoology professor at The University of Queensland in Australia who studies frogs.

"They're often regarded as a great bioindicator of environmental health,"

said Franklin, who was not involved in the expedition. "Often we see declines in frogs as a direct pointer to an affected environment."

Researchers from Conservation International explored the region with scientists from the University of British Columbia in Canada and Montclair State University in New Jersey, as well as local scientists from Papua New Guinea.

The area the researchers explored provides a critical source of clean drinking water to tens of thousands of people living in surrounding communities and local clans rely on the region for hunting.

## BUDGET

From Page 1

limits on expenditures by passing a House concurrent resolution. By Sept. 1, the Legislature completes action by introducing and passing a budget bill, setting the spending ceiling.

The 2010 fiscal year begins Oct. 1, 2009.

Fleming said the administration would most likely ask for the same cost-reduction measures for 2010 it is

currently seeking for this fiscal year.

"Ten percent austerity measure, and we can work out whether that will be holidays or a combination of austerity Fridays," she said. Also, she added, they would seek to reduce the Retirement Fund contribution from 18 percent to 11 percent.

In February, the Fitial administration authored a bill introduced in the House of Representatives enacting unpaid holidays and austerity Fridays. It has yet to be voted on.

Operation expenses will be 20 per-

cent across the board in the FY 2010 budget, Fleming said. Appropriations for the Northern Marianas College will remain the same, she noted.

Fleming said the administration is looking at suspending NMC's apprenticeship program created under Public Law 15-5. At least \$1.5 million each year for five years go toward the program, which was created to attract local residents into technical or trade professions. The Northern Marianas Trades Institute is similar, she noted.

## BOAT

From Page 1

force many commercial marine sports operators to let go of non-U.S. citizen boat drivers, including Japanese and Filipinos who only have CNMI work permits.

The TWIC rule was one of the key issues tackled at yesterday's Marine Sports Forum organized by the Coastal Resources Management at the Palms Resort in San Roque.

The industry forum drew at least 106 participants, mostly marine tour operators, boat drivers, tour agents, and local and federal government agency representatives.

"Looks like Saipan will have to follow stricter policies like TWIC. I'm already a U.S. certified boat captain but I still need TWIC. I spent over \$130 for it," said Kumiko Deleon Guerrero, co-owner of J&K Marine Sports, which has been operating on Saipan for 22 years.

### TWIC costs \$132.50.

Non-U.S. citizen boat drivers like Claro Vidal, a Filipino contract worker,

will have a hard time getting a TWIC. Because of the federal requirement, he will no longer drive a boat by April 15 and will have to go back to being a scuba diver.

"I'm not a U.S. citizen and I only have a CNMI work permit, not a federal work visa, so I cannot apply for TWIC," he said, adding that other Filipino and Japanese boat drivers may lose their jobs.

A Japanese boat driver who requested anonymity said he will be applying for a federal work visa to secure a TWIC.

### Get TWIC or have your licensed revoked

Michelle K. Duty, marine science technician 2nd class at the U.S. Coast Guard, said only boat drivers—and not the crew—will need a TWIC card by April 15 to comply with the Transportation Security Administration regulations.

A TWIC is a common identification credential for all mariners holding Coast-Guard issued credentials, and all personnel requiring unescorted access to secure areas of Maritime TSA-regulated facilities and vessels.

Merchant mariners and individuals

who need unescorted access to secure areas of ports, facilities, or vessels regulated by MTSA will need to obtain a TWIC.

"If they do not have a TWIC after April 15, they cannot use their license and drive underneath their U.S. Coast Guard marine license. If they get caught, their license will get taken away," Duty told *Saipan Tribune*.

Duty was one of the resource speakers at the Marine Sports Forum.

In the CNMI, enrollment for TWIC has begun at the TSA office at the TSL Plaza in Garapan. Those who wish to apply for TWIC need to schedule an appointment with the TSA office at 1-866-347-8942 or pre-enroll online at <http://twicinformation.tsa.dhs.gov>.

During TWIC enrollment, applicants will be required to visit the TSA office in Garapan to provide biographic information, necessary identity verification documents, a complete set of fingerprints; sign a disclosure form; sit for a digital photograph; and pay the enrollment fee.

Bill Owens, owner of B Sea Sunsports, which has been in operation for 16 years, said his staff who are all U.S. citizens will secure a TWIC clearance.

Eugene L. Villagomez, and the family of the late senator Joaquin G. Adriano.

"We met [Tuesday] to reaffirm our commitment to work together for all Tinian residents. We have three years of solid accomplishment and we stand ready to provide the same quality service and representation to the people of Tinian," said San Nicolas.

Mendiola took the opportunity to declare his support for the incumbent mayor and fellow officials in the upcoming election.

"My family, supporters, and I stand ready to support Mayor San Nicolas, Congressman Aldan, and Director Borja because we believe that together we can continue developing our island," said Mendiola, who is also the incumbent chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation.

During the meeting, the candidates expressed their desire to continue providing opportunities to Tinian youth and *man 'amko* while improving Tinian's infrastructure.

"We are building roads, improving our ports, training our people, supporting our tourism and casino industries, beautifying our island, and ensuring

that our children are receiving opportunities to succeed," said the candidates in a joint statement.

San Nicolas, Mendiola, Borja, and Aldan ran together under the Covenant Party ticket in 2005. They are once again asking the people of Tinian for their vote of confidence in the 2009 general election.

Support for the mayor and his slate were also expressed by former Republican senator Manny Villagomez, former Republican senator Esteven M. King, and former Republican congressman Francisco T. Cabrera, along with former council chairman Edward A. Villagomez.

In an interview, San Nicolas described the present year as the most challenging one for Tinian. Since 1998, only Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino has been providing assistance to the local municipality.

The mayor, who intends to keep the jobs of all his 139 employees, is looking at implementing a two-month furlough rather than a massive layoff of personnel.

With the anticipated military buildup in Guam, Tinian is also expected to economically benefit from the plan.

## TINIAN

From Page 1

tion, yesterday disclosed that the \$4 million reprogrammed money for the project will instead be used for more pressing needs at the Tinian airport.

He identified such priorities as renovations, improvement to the commuter and terminal facilities, and the sewer system.

Mendiola said the delegation is now awaiting the Commonwealth Ports Authority-recommended airport projects, along with the cost breakdown for each item.

The ILS project has been in the works since 2006. Funding and opposing views about the need to install the equipment on Tinian delayed its implementation. In November 2007 the Office of Insular Affairs approved the reprogramming of \$4 million from the island's wastewater project to the ILS.

Mendiola said the delegation will now seek OIA's approval to reprogram anew or transfer the ILS funds to other priority projects at the Tinian airport.

The senator said one of the main factors in their decision to cancel the project was the anticipated exclusion of China from the CNMI-Guam visa waiver program. Mendiola believes that such a move will negatively impact the island's tourist arrivals.

Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino is the lone casino operator on island, having been in business since 1998. It caters mainly to the Chinese market.

Mendiola admitted that attracting Chinese carriers to fly to Tinian was the prime reason why the delegation pushed the ILS project in the first place.

"ILS was specifically pushed to attract direct flights from China. With the anticipated exclusion of the China market from the visa waiver program, we feel this project would not make sense anymore. Our airport, without the ILS, is accommodating and can still accommodate charter flights from Japan and other places," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Mendiola believes that the OIA money would be more useful in funding the second phase of airport projects on Tinian.

### CPA, FAA unsupportive of ILS?

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Efrain F. Camacho yesterday disclosed that neither the Federal Aviation Agency nor CPA had a hand in pushing for the ILS project because both entities are convinced that flights could still safely land on Tinian even without the equipment.

"The delegation has to decide whether to go or not with ILS project. As far as CPA is concerned, we can only suggest, offer, and recommend... but the decision needs to be made by themselves. One important factor to consider is the traffic demand," he said.

Camacho said that after finalizing and completing the scope of work for the ILS, everything was turned over to the delegation.

Like CPA, the FAA had also expressed reservations about the project, Camacho said, which is why funding came from reprogrammed OIA funds and not from FAA.

"We cannot support it simply because the level of traffic is not there," Camacho said, adding that the current traffic on Tinian doesn't justify the need to install the equipment.

The official said that based on the last projected total cost for an ILS, some \$5 million is needed—still \$1 million short of the \$4 million initial funding.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that for equipment maintenance alone, the delegation needs to allot \$20,000 to \$80,000 yearly.

### ILS: a guiding path for pilot

ILS facilities are a highly accurate and dependable means of navigating to the runway. When using the ILS, the pilot determines aircraft position primarily by reference to instruments. The ILS consists of a local transmitter, glide path transmitter, outer marker, and the approach lighting system.

ILS is classified by category in accordance with the capabilities of the ground equipment. It provides the lateral and vertical guidance necessary to fly a precision approach, where glide slope information is provided.

For the Tinian airport, which is surrounded by ocean, officials believe that it may not be that necessary or crucial to install an ILS, which is usually used by bigger airports.



# CPA now 90 pct. compliance with bond indenture

## Deportable ex-convict arrested

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Authorities arrested early this week an ex-convict who failed to contact the Division of Immigration for his deportation, in violation of the terms of his agreement with the division.

Weider R. Debengek, a Palauan, was brought to the Superior Court yesterday for a bail hearing.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman remanded Debengek to the custody of the Department of Corrections pending his deportation today, Thursday.

Wiseman ordered Immigration to arrange a supervised visit to the respondent's family before his departure.

Court records show that in March 2008 the Superior Court convicted Debengek of two felonies—steal of vehicle and burglary. The court imposed a one-year prison term on Debengek.

At the sentencing, Wiseman said Debengek would be immediately deported upon his release from prison.

The theft case involved the

stealing of a 2005 Toyota Matrix from Yuying Jiao Etpison between March 25 and 26, 2007. Debengek broke into the building of Lian Tian with the purpose of committing theft.

In May 2007, police arrested Debengek and two other men for allegedly staging an armed robbery at KB Poker in Koblerville on March 26, 2007.

Detectives learned that before the suspects robbed the poker arcade, they stole Etpison's car and used it as their getaway vehicle.

Following the conviction, Immigration filed a deportation case against Debengek in August 2008.

In February 2009, Wiseman issued a bench warrant against Debengek for not communicating with Immigration as part of their agreement for his deportation.

Wiseman said that on Oct. 20, 2008, he issued an order of deportation based on the stipulation.

In issuing the bench warrant, the judge said that as of Feb. 11, 2009, Debengek has not made known to AGIU any attempt to obtain travel documents so a repatriation ticket may be purchased.

BY **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The head of the Commonwealth Ports Authority disclosed yesterday that the agency is nearing full recovery and compliance with both its seaport and airport bond indenture agreements, saying that CPA's present debt service ratio is at 1:27.

Executive director Efrain F. Camacho said yesterday this status is a result of the many actions taken by the management since the lifting of the state of emergency last year.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial placed the agency in a state of emergency in May 2008 after it was found in default of its sea-

port bond indenture agreement. He threatened a management takeover if the issue is not addressed immediately.

Camacho said that from the .84 debt service ratio last year, CPA posted a significant improvement in meeting its bond requirements.

"We're very close to full compliance with our bond indentures. From the previous 0.84 debt service ratio, CPA is now at 1:27. I can say that with the improvements made by the agency, we're more than 90 percent in compliance with the standards," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

In January, CPA increased its tariff rates by 90 percent and

launched extensive collection efforts in longstanding accounts and receivables.

For the receivables alone, CPA noted a "positive" turn in its cash flow.

Camacho said the newly created model for its management also showed promising results. "It's a work in progress...and we keep monitoring and watching every aspect of the operation to ensure that all areas and accounts are being assessed," he said.

Camacho said it's the vision of the management to continue the progress and avert the same "old problems" from occurring.

The agency brought in a certified public accountant for its comptroller position this year.

It also hired a consultant who will solely focus on meeting the bond indenture requirements. It also instituted controls in its accounting records.

"The control that we have now is to make it more efficient...and we're happy to see that it's really happening," he said.

The Federal Aviation Agency recently lowered CPA from high-risk category to moderate risk after CPA partially addressed concerns raised by FAA in previous years' audit reports.

The federal agency placed CPA in the high-risk category in 2007 due to "questionable administrative costs" in the federal funds provided for airport projects.

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

**IFB-003**

### San Vicente School Community Based Management, Inc.

The San Vicente School Community Based Management, Inc., Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) is soliciting competitive bids from qualified contractors for the renovation of the San Vicente Aquaculture Science Project located on the campus of San Vicente Elementary School. All contractors interested in bidding on this project must attend a mandatory pre-bid meeting at the San Vicente Science project office, located next to the library, on Saturday the 28th of March beginning at 1:00 pm. Specifications and drawings may be purchased starting on March 23, 2009, at Quick Print for \$51.40. Any questions related to this IFB must be received by Friday, April 3rd. The due date for the sealed bids is Friday April 10th by 2:00pm. Sealed bids must be received by the San Vicente School secretary in the main office. The sealed bids will be opened on Saturday the 11th of April at 8:00am at the Aquaculture Science office. All contractors are welcome to be present at the opening of the bids.

For questions email to Valrick Welch, Project Manager: vawelch@gmail.com or fax to 670-664-3985.



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY

Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center  
P.O. Box 501133 Chalan Kanoa • Saipan, MP 96950  
TEL: (670) 664-4550 • Fax: (670) 664-4560



## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, hereby giving notice that the CNMI State Advisory Group (SAG), also known as the "Youth Advisory Council" (YAC) of the Criminal Justice Planning Agency will hold an Award Meeting on **Friday, March 27, 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M., Vista B Conference Room, Palms Resort, Saipan.**

### AGENDA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **ROLL CALL**
- III. **REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- IV. **REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
  - Review and Adoption of Minutes from YAC Awards meeting on January 30, 2009.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - Status on 5% return funding for territories under JJDP Act re-authorization. (FACJJ, NCJA, Rep. Greg Sablan)
  - YAC Proposed resolution to the Governor regarding EUDL Awareness Month.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - Final review, update, and approval of the 2009 Three Year State Plan submission of the CNMI Title II Formula Grant application.
  - Meeting with Juvenile Justice Task Force Members
    1. Review and Update of Task Force MOU
    2. Status and Comments on Passage of Juvenile Justice Act HB 16-178.
    3. Attendance and Participation at MYSN/EUDL Conference
    4. Future Plans of Task Force – Activities
- VII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - Micronesian Youth Services Network Conference set for March 31 – April 1, 2009. Saipan World Resort followed by a Youth Rally April 2 at the Garapan Street Market.
- VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by Grant# 2006-JF-FX-0045, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice.

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Life in Motion



# NMC names Tenorio dean of student services

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA  
Moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College has named a new dean of student services, filling the position held by Daisy Villagomez-Bier who "exited" the college in November last year.

Janice Tenorio succeeded to the position temporarily handled by Leo Pangelinan, who was named acting dean following Bier's departure.

As college dean, Tenorio is responsible for overseeing various programs and services that include admissions and records, library services, career development

programs, student leadership, and federal programs like the Student Support Services, Upward Bound Program and the Educational Talent Search program.

"These are areas that enhance the quality of campus life and promote student development and success," Tenorio said, adding she's extremely privileged and excited to be leading this effort.

Last year, Tenorio served as director of Student Support Services, which is part of the Division of Student Services. The Student Support Services is a federally-funded program of the U.S. Department of Education.

The Student Support Services Program serves 180 students yearly. It provides opportunities for academic development, assists students with basic college requirements, and serves to motivate students toward the successful completion of their degree. The goal of SSS is to increase the college's retention and graduation rates and facilitate the process of transition from one level of higher education to the next.

Prior to serving as director for SSS, Tenorio worked as a grant writer and acting grants manager for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. She had also worked extensively for the col-

lege, having served as the director of the Office of Admissions and Records office for several years. She had also worked in

many other capacities: college registrar, extension coordinator, admissions counselor, and administrative officer.

According to NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, "Janice's extensive expertise in higher edu-

cation and her skills and commitment to NMC students uniquely equip her for her new role here. We expect the programs and services offered to students at the college to grow and flourish under her leadership."

## 'PUC may need to act to resolve CUC-CDA debt'

The debt settlement agreement between the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Commonwealth Development Authority will not be reached until a government entity demands a resolution, according to CUC.

CUC agrees with an earlier report by the Georgetown Consulting Group that, without a resolution to the debt agreement, CUC will not be able to access short- and long-term credit markets.

"The CDA matter needs to be resolved," CUC executive director Antonio Muña said in pre-filed testimony to the Public Utilities

Commission. "It will not be until a government decision-maker forces a decision. The [PUC] is such a decision-maker."

The proposed debt equity conversion agreement between CUC and CDA would transfer \$29 million in CUC preferred stock to the CDA so that it can address its longstanding debt.

The two agencies have been at odds over the loan, which affects CUC's ability to borrow money and its plans for privatization.

The Georgetown report said CUC shows willingness to resolve the issue.

"However, CDA has not at this time expressed a willingness to have the PUC serve in a role to adjudicate this matter. In the meantime, the matter remains unresolved and CUC is effectively barred from capital markets," the report said.

In his testimony, Muña said GCG fails to recommend action.

"If no one demands action there will be no action. The Commission may need to act," he said.

The PUC will hold a public hearing on the debt and other matters on Friday at 1 pm in the Senate chamber. *(Kristi Eaton)*

## Islandwide cleanup set for April 17

At least 5,000 volunteers are expected to participate in an islandwide cleanup set for April 17 as part of Earth Month activities in the CNMI.

Coordinating the event are Beautify CNMI partners Division of Environmental Quality and the Rotary Club of Saipan.

"The idea is that if the community, businesses and the government go out and spend one hour or two hours picking up litter, planting trees or painting over graffiti, the combined effort

will be greater than working individually," said environmental advocate Angelo Villagomez, who is also the Beautify CNMI public involvement coordinator.

Entities who want to join the islandwide cleanup could choose to do it in the morning or in the afternoon of April 17, a Friday.

"We will provide trash bags and gloves if they want, and DEQ will pick up the trash collected," Villagomez said.

Back in October 2006, Beautify CNMI coordinated an is-

landwide cleanup participated in by 300 volunteers who not only picked up litter off of beaches and streets but also planted trees and painted over graffiti. Beautify CNMI is a coalition of business, government, and private sector entities to enhance and preserve the CNMI's natural resources.

For those who want to participate in the cleanup, contact DEQ's Joe Kaipat or Jacob Lizama at 664-8500 or Angelo Villagomez at 285 6462. *(Haidée V. Eugenio)*



### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

## AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GENERATOR PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION SERVICES PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-006-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance and Operation Services of the Saipan International Airport's Backup Generator System on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing preventive maintenance services and operation of its two (2) 1.8 megawatt Caterpillar generators and ASCO controls at the Saipan International Airport. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, March 6, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Generator Preventive Maintenance and Operation Services". One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.  
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: March 25, 2009

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# 'NMI still not a safe place to report sexual assaults'

1 in 3 girls falls prey; publication of sex offenders' photos suggested

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Minor and adult victims of sexual assault still do not feel "safe" reporting their ordeal in the closely-knit CNMI where perpetrators are slapped with sentences ranging from only a few days to a few years in prison, according to visiting officials of the National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault.

SCESA is a Connecticut-based national advocacy group that is currently on Saipan to "assess the services for victims of sexual assault" to help craft strategies to end sexual assault in the CNMI and help get more funds for entities agencies dealing with the issue.

"The community has to do more so that victims of sexual assault feel it is safe to speak out. Victims will not speak out unless they feel it's safe to do so," SCESA executive director Condencia Brade said during Tuesday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Garapan.

Kiki Igitol and Denise Shoemaker of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence yesterday said they have yet to finalize latest statistics on the number of sexual assault victims in the CNMI.

Brade, the guest speaker at the Rotary Club meeting, said the number is "significant," considering that "what's reported to the police is not the whole picture of what's happening."

During a question-and-answer at the meeting, Brade was asked by Rotary Club member Angelo Villagomez about her opinion on some sentences meted on sexual assault offenders that include "30 days, all suspended except for five days" or a fine of \$50.

Brade said she has yet to meet with members of the Judiciary today to learn more about applicable laws in the CNMI.

"The severity of the punishment should match the severity of the crime. Another question that needs to be asked is, 'How can you make the person accountable after he served his sentence?'" she said.

Proper training is also needed for police officers, nurses and other personnel that deal with victims of sexual assault, she added.

Victims of sexual assault should call the coalition hotline at 234-5100 for assistance and information.

## Statistics

One in three minor girls falls prey to sexual assault, and one in five minor boys suffer the



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Condencia Brade, center, executive director of the Connecticut-based National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault, talks about the ongoing assessment of the services for victims of sexual assault in the CNMI at yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency, while Rotary Club president Ben Babuta, left, and vice president Michael Brazel, right, look on.

same fate.

For every four adult women, one is estimated to become a victim of sexual assault in their lifetime, said Brade, referring to national statistics. But she said this estimate may well be applicable to the CNMI as well.

Members of the Rotary Club of Saipan led by president Ben Babuta said the group will continue to support programs addressing sexual assault.

David Sablan, a past president of the Rotary Club, said he will request publishers to allow photos of sex offenders in the CNMI to be published in the newspaper to deter them from further doing harm. He also shared a custom in another Pacific island where members of the community confess to their wrongdoings during Sunday Mass.

The CNMI Department of Public Safety has yet to post sex offender information on its website.

Brade urged the Rotary Club members and the business community in general to help provide resources to victims of sexual assault. These resources include food, clothing, toiletries and others that victims need when they go to a shelter like Guma Esperansa after their ordeal.

"We ask you to think about what you can do to help provide resources needed by victims of sexual assault, and to help raise awareness about sexual assault," Brade said.

## National project

Brade lauded the efforts of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

The coalition, she said, has been in attendance at several meetings coordinated by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, consistently ensuring that the needs of victims in the CNMI are included in national dialogues and processes to address violence against women.

and provide technical assistance and support as your administration and the CNMI Coalition continue to move forward in providing services while crafting strategies to end sexual assault in your islands," Brade said in a March 15 letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

The two-page letter, a copy of which was obtained by Saipan Tribune, also recognized the government's commitment to strengthen community involvement and capacity building for sexual assault services.

SCESA is leading efforts of a national project with the CNMI, aimed at sup-

ported and strengthening the CNMI's response to victims

of sexual assault.

The project is initiated by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, in partnership with SCESA and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

Brade and the rest of the SCESA team including communication specialist Sopheak Tek and program coordinator Val Fergus arrived on Saipan on Monday and have been meeting with representatives from DPS, the Commonwealth Health Center, victim services agencies and other agencies that come in contact with sexual assault survivors in the community.

Before coming to Saipan, the SCESA team was on Guam to do a similar assessment, and will also be headed for American Samoa, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Results of the assessment will be shared with the coalition, said Brade.

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Monday March 30<sup>th</sup> @ the Tinian Municipal Gymnasium, Tinian

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# Ban urges world to join 'Earth Hour'

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is urging citizens around the world to join World Wildlife Fund's "Earth Hour" to demand action on climate change.

In a videotaped address, the Secretary-General said that Earth Hour—which takes place on Saturday, March 28—promises to be “the largest demonstration of public concern about climate change ever attempted.”

“Earth Hour is a way for the citizens of the world to send a clear message. They want action on climate change,” said Ban.

Earth Hour, which is held on the last Saturday of March, began in Sydney in 2007, when 2.2 million homes and businesses switched off their lights

for one hour. In 2008 the message had grown into a global sustainability movement, with 50 million people switching off their lights. Global landmarks such as the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, Rome's Colosseum, the Sydney Opera House and the Coca Cola billboard in Times Square all stood in darkness.

This year, Earth Hour has been transformed into the world's first global election, between Earth and global warming. For 2009, Earth Hour is being taken to the next level, with the goal of 1 billion people switching

off their non-essential lights and electrical appliance for one hour as part of a global vote and to raise awareness towards the need to take action on climate change.

For the first time in history, people of all ages, nationalities, race and background have the opportunity to use their light switch as their vote. Switching off your lights is a vote for Earth, or leaving them on is a vote for global warming.

In the CNMI, Tan Holdings will be supporting the effort by urging the world to vote EARTH and reach the target of

1 billion votes, which will be presented to world leaders at the Global Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen 2009. This meeting will determine official government policies to take action against global warming, which will replace the Kyoto Protocol. It is the chance for the people of the world to make their voice heard.

Ban said that the United Nations would be doing its bit for Earth Hour. “In New York, we will switch out the lights at UN Headquarters. Other UN facilities around the world will also take part.”

Vote EARTH by simply switching off your lights for one hour on March 28, and join the world for Earth Hour. (PR)



Ki-moon

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 26, 1999

### CDA warned of bad loans

As the Commonwealth Development Authority remains the biggest source of financing in the Northern Marianas, a financial expert has urged CDA to reduce delinquency ratio by making sure that it only provides quality loans. An analysis on the CNMI's financing needs by David Burger, director of Burger & Comer, a public accounting firm, revealed that CDA has lent out over \$46 million from 1986 to 1997, a huge chunk of which was granted to consolidate the various debts of a long-established company. Burger made a comparative analysis of the finance conditions and needs in the CNMI and Guam during last week's economic conference. During the economic boom on the island, a huge amount of loans to build apartments were made, an area which Burger believes the authority should not focus on. CDA's third biggest category of loans was in fishing where it encouraged entrepreneurs to pursue this type of business.

### NMC probe shifts to credit-card buys

The House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare cast doubt on a set of credit cards issued to the Northern Marianas College, while shedding light on the two student financial grants at the resumption of its two-months long oversight hearing yesterday. Committee chair Rep. Heinz Hofschneider began its inquiry on the Visa cards provided by the Bank of Hawaii under the name of NMC President Agnes M. McPhetres, which are being used by the college for purchases of some of its supplies. While the panel has yet to categorically rule the transactions as violations of existing government regulations, Hofschneider asked college officials to hand in documents pertaining to the credit cards, including bank statements and accounts balance.

March 26, 2001

### Efforts intensify to stave off federal takeover

Local leaders will strengthen their relationship with the federal government in attempts to block the passage and implementation of a renewed proposal in the US Congress to strip the CNMI of its immigration and labor controls. Commonwealth officials are, in fact, planning to meet with newly-appointed officials in the Bush Administration who have direct oversight on American insular areas including the Northern Marianas. House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial disclosed concrete plans to meet with Interior Department Secretary Gale Norton and other US officials in the American capital, Washington DC including Rep. Tom Delay, a long-time ally of the Commonwealth.

### Drug trial opens can of worms

A testimony delivered by a witness in the trial of convicted drug-trafficker Leo S. Pangelinan yielded a list of alleged drug suppliers who may already be facing probe by federal and local authorities. Sonia Belyeu, an admitted drug user and former business partner of Mr. Pangelinan, dropped a string of names whom she claims were part of a hand-to-hand distribution of controlled substances. Police Commissioner Charles W. Ingram Jr. has requested the US District Court for a copy of Ms. Belyeu's controversial testimony, where she incriminated police captain Delbert Sablan's alleged involvement in the illegitimate business operation.

March 26, 2002

### 1 applying, 2 inquiring about college licenses

Three entities are seeking postsecondary licensure advice from the State Board of Regents amid plans to offer college-level and other educational courses in the Northern Marianas. The Joy Pacific International University, the American World University International Inc. and the CNMI-USA International Business and Professional College have signified interest to establish postsecondary institutions in the CNMI. But among the three, only Joy Pacific has submitted an application for postsecondary license, according to BOR Special Assistant Vince Merfalen. American World and the CNMI-USA IBPC are only seeking the BOR's determination whether they would need to acquire a license to kick-start the programs they plan to offer. After sitting through the Eucon International College's controversial licensure application, BOR Chair Fermin M. Atalig offered a piece of advice to the prospective applicants.

# Annuncio - Arongorong Announcement

YOUR COMMENTS ARE MOST WELCOME:

### VR FY - 2010 State Plan Goals

Goal 1. Deliver quality and timely services to applicants and consumers.

Goal 2. Serve as an advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Goal 3. Continue to work closely with the Workforce Investment Board to maintain and improve the best features of our workforce development system and to initiate efforts to integrate services for consumers.

Goal 4. Facilitate and ensure the seamless transition of students with disabilities to employment or continued education.

### SPIIL Amendment to Current Goals:

Goal 1) Increase the community's level of awareness of the independent living movement, individuals and systems advocacy;

Goal II) Provide certain independent living core services: the four core services and transportation services to individuals with significant disabilities.

For more information on the VR & SPIIL State Plans, please contact:

Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano  
OVR Director

Kaye Christian, SILC Chairperson

Jess Elameto, SRC Chairperson



The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

in partnership with the State Rehabilitation

Council (SRC) and the Statewide

Independent Living Council (SILC), will be conducting

statewide public forums on FY 2008–2010 State Plan for Vocational

Rehabilitation (VR) Services and to amend the current State Plan for

Independent Living (SPIL). YOU are ALL invited and encouraged to

please participate in the scheduled public forums. The forums will

provide opportunities for public comments on how well services are

met and what need to be strengthened in our State Plans. Let us know

how best the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation shall and should serve

people with disabilities residing in Saipan, Tinian and Rota. What

barriers exist that currently prevent our people with disabilities from

getting or keeping a job? More importantly, recommend solutions to

those barriers. Overall, how can OVR and our local communities work

together to prepare, secure and maintain employment and promote

independence for and among eligible people with disabilities?

Community Forum on VR & IL State Plan FY 2008–2010

### ROTA

March 26, 2009

WIA Office

State Plan for Vocational  
Rehabilitation at 5:30 p.m.

State Plan for Independent Living  
at 6:35 to 7:35 p.m.

### TINIAN

March 31, 2009

TINIAN Aging Center

State Plan for Vocational  
Rehabilitation at 5:30 p.m.

State Plan for Independent Living  
at 6:35 to 7:35 p.m.

**SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION:** If you require special accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the public forums, please contact the OVR Council Liaison Magin Iginoef at least 2 days before the scheduled forums. Copies of the plans can be obtained and accessed at website & office.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

322-6537/8 (Voice) 322-6449 (TTY) 322-6536 Fax

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Lynn Knight PUBLISHER

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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## EDITORIAL

### Regulating carbon

**T**he Environmental Protection Agency has told the White House that global warming is endangering public health and welfare, The Post's Juliet Eilperin reported this week. This "finding" under the Clean Air Act may seem like a no-brainer, given the potential ill effects of climate change. But that law, enacted in 1970, was never intended to deal with greenhouse gases and is not suited to that task. The Bush administration's failure to tackle climate change directly drove states and environmental advocates to seek back-door paths to regulation. If this one goes forward, the EPA would have to regulate greenhouse gases from all sources, including cars, houses and commercial buildings. This would create what Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., has called "a glorious mess." Congress should avert it by putting a price on carbon.

Such a market-based solution could be accomplished either through a tax or, as the Obama administration supports, by setting a cap on greenhouse gas emissions and having polluting companies pay for the right to emit. Mr. Obama's budget anticipates collecting \$645.7 billion over the next 10 years from such a cap-and-trade regime. But such a complex system would take time to develop and institute, even if Congress supports it. Laurie Williams and Allan Zabel, two EPA enforcement attorneys for more than 20 years in the agency's San Francisco office and writing as private citizens, released a paper last month advocating a "carbon fee" because, they argue, a cap-and-trade system "will not insure a competitive price advantage for clean energy over fossil fuel energy in the near future." Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, supports cap-and-trade. But when we asked him whether opponents of a carbon tax were right in saying that a tax would not guarantee emissions reductions, Mr. Pachauri said no. "If you rationally design the tax, you could meet the carbon emissions reduction goals," he said, because it "should lead to a shift to other sources of energy or other technologies that reduce energy use efficiently."

Yes, we know. A carbon tax is a politically unpalatable solution for some. But it has advantages over a complex trading system and should be considered. And either a carbon fee or cap-and-trade would be far superior to bureaucratic regulation under the Clean Air Act.

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## Full throttle: Act without fear

**H**ave you ever been in a situation where you were willing to commit everything you have to achieve a desired outcome? I mean, given two options, you absolutely did not want one of them to happen and you were willing to do whatever it takes to make the other choice happen?

A friend once told me about an incident his father had when he picked up a hitchhiker on the highway. He was trying to be a good person and give a stranger a ride, but after driving a short distance, the hitchhiker pulled a gun on him and demanded his father pull over and stop the car. At this point, the father weighed his limited options and reasoned that if he complied with the demand he could possibly be shot and left for dead because he would be a witness to the crime.

What happened next, though, turned the tables on the gun-totting passenger and put the father in control of the situation. Instead of slowing down, he made the decision to step on the accelerator and went full throttle down the highway. As the car gained speed, the hitchhiker's demands became more intimidating, but the father was committed to an outcome and ignored the threats.

The tension was extreme as the car raced down the desolate highway at full speed and the hitchhiker held the gun to the father's head. The father told the hitchhiker that if he was shot his last action would be to yank the wheel hard and cause the car to violently roll out of control — killing them both. However, if the gun were handed over to him, he would allow the hitchhiker to live and let him out of the car unharmed. Realizing that his life was worth more than the money and vehicle that he hoped to steal, the hitchhiker handed over the gun. The father slowed down as he now held the gun on the hitchhiker. When the car stopped, the would-be assailant was left along the side of the road, after the father had him take off his pants so others wouldn't be so inclined to give him a ride.

There are many situations in life where "bullies" make unreasonable demands and abuse their position of power. The more that people comply with their bullying, the more unreasonable they become in their demands and the less tolerant they are to the wishes and requests of others. This sorry human behavior can be observed in young schoolyard tormenters, international terrorists, and all the way up to tyrannical world leaders. It manifests itself in the form of abusive spouses, harassing coworkers, autocratic bosses, or repressive politicians.

Mahatma Gandhi was humiliated on a train trip that he took to work in South Africa. He was thrown off the train because of the

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC ([www.bizresults.org](http://www.bizresults.org)). They can be contacted at [biz\\_results@yahoo.com](mailto:biz_results@yahoo.com).



color of his skin and his first response was anger. However, he realized that violence would not bring him justice and he resolved to develop his philosophy of non-violent intolerance to injustice. He willfully resisted the rule of the British Empire, and led the entire nation of India to become an independent country—something that many would have thought impossible.

What makes this even more amazing is that he did not hold any position or formal authority at the time, yet he was recognized as the leader of a cause because of his indefatigable spirit. His only weapon was his moral authority, total commitment to a cause, and an unbendable will in the face of extreme tension. Like my friend's father, Mahatma Gandhi created a third alternative to the fight or flight reactions that most people exhibit when faced with an uncomfortable situation: non-violent action. And like the hitchhiker, the British Empire gave into the demands of a person whose will would not tolerate their injustice and threats.

Fear can be debilitating if one allows it to take control. If you are too afraid to act, then be prepared to accept whatever consequences come your way. However, if you believe in something so strongly that you are willing to do whatever it takes to realize the results you want, then it will eventually become a reality. We'll end with the mission statement that Mahatma Gandhi used to shape his life and the destiny of his country. Can you imagine what your life would be like if you lived each day according to Gandhi's mission?

"Let the first act of every morning be to make the following resolve for the day:

*I shall not fear anyone on Earth.*

*I shall fear only God.*

*I shall not bear ill will toward anyone.*

*I shall not submit to injustice from anyone.*

*I shall conquer untruth by truth. And in resisting untruth, I shall put up with all suffering."*

—Mahatma Gandhi



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## House of Horus/Hors playgrounds

The gladiatorial combat begins over a drink with the haggling of price. The ladies are quite direct and to the point: “How much are you going to pay me?”

We have been focusing on the lopsided Chinese component of the ladies in the shadows on Saipan in this series of *Hordom* in the House of Horus. And for good reason that fully covers the gamut of political (how do we allow people to decide what to do with their bodies), economic (the process of survival when one invested all her means on the promise of recouping capital through employment), and cultural (the meaning and significance of existing when there is evidently a fluid flux on values) reasons.

In decadent pre-Communist China, there were actually comfort wagons, brothels on wheels on the rails. The trains were sold the same way sex tourism is marketed these days, coupled with other legitimate activities like a scenic tour, a spectator sport, or, in our time, a game of golf.

WWII Japanese soldiers institutionalized the practice with organized “comfort women.” Military personnel forced sex acts on women from conquered lands, which included Chinese, Koreans, Filipinos, Dutch as well as Japanese. That there were documented willing participants is beside the point. The practice will later evolve in large scale businesses during the Vietnam War in Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and the Philippines.

In fact, governments tacitly participated in the new industry, particularly when Thailand agreed to provide “rest and recreation” services to American personnel, which resulted in the designation of “R&R” into “I&I,” intercourse and intoxication. R&R countries would later be called “American brothels” by Sen. J. William Fulbright. The Vietnamese governments proactively mined the inexhaustible source of U.S. dollars for the regimes in both South and North Vietnam. Of course, we are talking about the despicable acts of other governments!

Not unlike the official PR line of many governments in the '70s, “prostitution does not exist because it is illegal.” Never mind that young girls were treated like agricultural crops to be bought and sold, many economies survived, as some still do, on the revenues

directly and indirectly generated through the commerce.

In fact, in a South Korean orientation session for prostitutes, women were allegedly told: “You girls must take pride in your devotion to your country. Your carnal conversations with foreign tourists do not prostitute either yourself or the nation, but express your heroic patriotism.” We will not be remiss, however, if we are not overt in saluting heroic deeds!

The young and seasoned ladies of the trade on Saipan are cooperatively and collaboratively operated. We will not delve into official collusion here since it is obvious that the industry, so persistent and prevalent, would not exist without some form of either official sanction or benign neglect.

Functional cooperative housing is a natural result of the shared “barracks” housing that developed in the waning days of the garment industry when workers decided to go on their own rather than pay for factory housing. Depending on the size, a number of people would live together but would take turns sleeping, depending on factory hours, which almost operated 24 hours on the death throes of the industry. The working girls learned their lesson well.

But first, let us discard the high end of the trade. NY Gov. Elliot Spitzer’s girls must have had dwellings fronting Central Park in NY City to demand the prices they charged, but our demure ladies whose phone numbers are discretely available through controlled sources will have apartments in the area close to the Park, or the Galleria. If connected to tour offices, hotel personnel, and security guards, they would have access to the customers’ rooms. Streetwalkers have to either stealthily enter through the back elevator, or walk in with their clients, but if sighted, they will have to chalk up a standard fee.

The massage parlors generally relax tired muscles, but sometimes, the masseuse discretely proffers “sensation” services administered by hand or orally. First-timers and guilt-ridden clients are known to avail of this service.

Karaoke clubs along Beach Road, and a couple into the villages of Oleai and Chalan Kanoa, where the obligatory drink is required, and the singing optional, are known to have back storage rooms equipped with a bed and relatively clean sheet. Back-

By **JAIME VERGARA**

*Special to the Saipan Tribune*



*Jaime Vergara occasionally writes for the Opinion page of the Saipan Tribune.*

aches of customers had been known to be relaxed, not dissimilar to what Marilyn Monroe allegedly administered to JFK Jr. while they were exchanging fluids. Current charge is \$50, fifteen going to the house upkeep.

For a full hour service, the ladies offer their rooms either within walking distance, or accessible through one of the flat \$5/person unregistered taxis in the realm. (Taxi drivers are also brokers for the tourists who do not know where to go.) Or, parties avail of the inexpensive short-time motel accommodations.

Motel rooms have a bed and a washroom. The girl’s dwelling is no bigger but might have a more homey ambience, with a poster of a naked couple on the wall. It may even have a fridge and a kitchenette. The reason a couple of girls will bundle up in one room is the cost. At a fourth of the size of a regular apartment away from Garapan and Beach Road, one pays three-fourth of the rent, plus cost of utilities.

Supply of workers is high before the federal takeover of immigration, although already, struggling former garment factory workers are slowly buying their tickets home. The fast turnover of personnel lowers the cost of the commodity, and clearly, before June, it is a buyers’ market.

The fast food service now dominates public dining; the services of the ladies in the shadows have since franchised the patent. When cultures applaud the promiscuity of men and expect modesty from its sacramental women, modern practitioners of the House of Horus will abound. Shouldn’t we start issuing licenses?

## The wealth gap gets wider

The chips are in.

Every three years, the Federal Reserve, in its Survey of Consumer Finances, takes a look at how U.S. households are doing and reports on our assets and liabilities. The euphoria of our gambling spree is over. In the harsh glare of morning, the hangover is tough. And the latest data are from 2007, so they don’t even capture the worst of the decline.

The net worth of the average American family is less than it was in 2001. We borrowed more for that trip to Vegas than we brought home. Everyone knows this now.

But here’s something being talked about much less: The gap between the wealth of white Americans and African Americans has grown. According to the Fed, for every dollar of wealth held by the typical white family, the African American family has only one dime. In 2004, it had 12 cents.

This is not just a gap. It’s a deepening canyon.

The overhyped political term “post-racial society” becomes patently absurd when looking at these economic numbers. This week, experts on asset building in communities of color are meeting with members of Congress to talk about closing the wealth gap. While the government is rescuing failing financial institutions as a short-term measure, those at the two-day Color of Wealth Policy Summit will make the case that the nation’s long-term economic future depends on the inclusion of all Americans in opportunities to build wealth.

Why such a big gap? The biggest predictor of the future economic status of a child is the net worth of the child’s parents. Even modest inheritances or gifts within a parent’s lifetime—such as paying for college or providing the down payment on a home—can give a child a lift up the economic ladder. And his-

torically, white families have enjoyed more government support and tax-paid subsidies for their asset-building activities.

Let’s look at the rules of the game in homeownership, for example.

During the Depression, the Home Owners’ Loan Corp. was formed to rescue families whose homes were in foreclosure. Not a single loan went to a family of color. The black section of Detroit was simply excluded. After World War II, GIs received government-subsidized home mortgages, but there was no oversight to ensure that soldiers of color got their fair share. Of the 67,000 mortgages issued under the GI Bill in New York and northern New Jersey, 66,900 went to white veterans, as documented in Ira Katznelson’s “When Affirmative Action Was White.”

Recently, there have been sins of omission and commission. White families are five times as likely as families of color to have a bank account and access to responsible loan terms. Because of the lack of federally insured and regulated financial institutions on reservations and in inner cities, rural areas, barrios and Chinatowns, payday lenders and other shady financial dealers operating without government oversight have preyed on people of color, fueling the economic and foreclosure crises. African Americans and other people of color were more than three times as likely as white borrowers to be steered to high-interest loans, even when they qualified for a prime loan. A Harvard University study showed that in Massachusetts, a high-income African American was more likely than a low-income white borrower to get a subprime loan. Such studies abound.

Additionally, rules in our tax code have strengthened the hand of those who already have assets. You can get a tax deduction for the interest paid on home mortgages of up to \$1 million—a nice break for those who hardly need one. But if you own a home

By **MEIZHU LUI**

*Special to The Washington Post*



*Meizhu Lui is director of the Closing the Racial Wealth Gap Initiative at the Insight Center for Community Economic Development in Oakland, Calif. The center is organizing the Color of Wealth 2009 Policy Summit, held in Washington Monday and Tuesday. This column was also published on www.theroot.com.*

and make too little to itemize, the mortgage interest deduction doesn’t help you at all.

So what can we do? We need a Financial Product Safety Commission to act against discriminatory lending policies and to stop the marketing of dangerous loans such as exploding adjustable-rate mortgages. We also should cap the mortgage interest deduction and make it refundable so low-income homeowners can benefit. Mandating that new schools and transportation and commercial projects that are supported by federal dollars be located only in areas with racially inclusive zoning policies would also do much to create and grow neighborhoods of opportunity.

Building wealth is essential to the American promise of opportunity for economic mobility and security regardless of the accident of one’s birth. In the 21st-century global marketplace, the diversity of our population is an asset—if we play our cards right.

The chips on the table reflect the fact that the game was fixed. It’s time to start an honest game with a new deck. All of our futures depend on it.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Primet Agua De Abrit

*Duranten tiempon somnag, i lancheru siha matutuhon madis-monta yan aladu gualo niha. Preparasion este para finatton tiempon uchan. Kontodo simiya siha sige man -matanum gi halom fina sahan para u matransplanta gi propio tiempo.*

*Pago gi tutuhon Abgrit na mes `nai poduñg i mafananaan ni mañainata Primet Agua de Abrit (beginning of Spring). Man-matanume i fangualuan siha deste golai, gulusina yan aguon haya.*

*Makat na offisiu para lancheru lao tradision natibu deste an-*

*tigu na mañainata kiñientos años antes. Ginen i tano yan tase `nai ta prebeniniye mantension familia. Famaguon lalahe siha man-maluluk `sino kreansa gi todo offisiun tradision tano`.*

*Megai gi man-acha `amkoku man-malofan guine na chalan. Ayo mina ti estrañheru offisiun gualo yan tase esta pago na tiempo. Guaha ha umusune mas hafa finanaguen guelu yan guela. Esta pago man-guagualu para metkao yan mantension familia.*

*Taya sinetsothu nu i mafanagueghu chechu gualo yan tase. Esta pago, maseha dididi esta ñaba` i temu, sisiña ha` hu suhon fusiños, uson kama, kuha yan machete. Banidosuyu` ni tradision tanota sa` todo i tiempo guaha para mantension familia.*

*Hasso pot un`ratu `an ta kadu dos poya gi lanchu. Man-*

*daña hit komo familia manmamatinas mientras sige ta sañgan grasiata siha. Mas fitme i pegse` ni muna fan dadaña hit komo taotao tano.*

*I relasionta tai tinituhon sino finagpu. Namagof i dinaña familia maseha ñgaian. Mauleg ta kreansa famaguonta gi dinaña nu este na tradision maseha pot para ta fanue` siha sensian himidde yan fitme na sensian moralidad. Estague dos attikulo `nai siña ta ayuda famaguonta manpatte gi chechu disiente na chechu komunidat. Bien felis i primet Agua de Abrit.*

*Si Yuus Maase.*

**John S. DelRosario Jr.**






*As Gonno, Saipan*



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

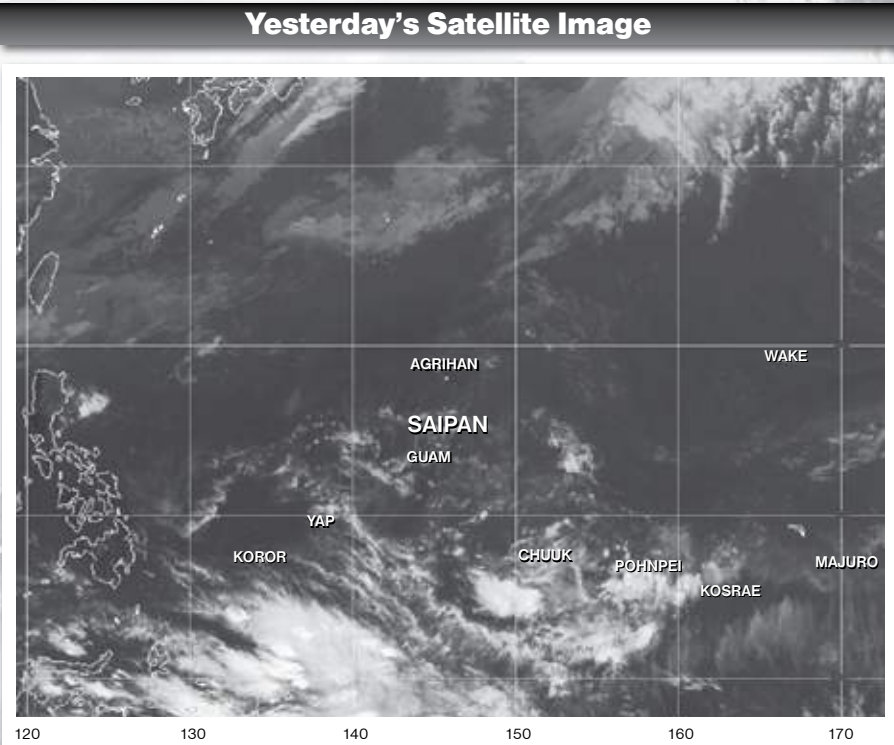
## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY  | SUNDAY   | MONDAY  |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|                                |  |  |  |  |
| Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds becoming northeast around 10 mph in the afternoon. | Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.      | Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.                                    | Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.                                     | Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  |
| ▲86° ▼75°   | ▲86° ▼76°   | ▲86° ▼76°   | ▲86° ▼76°  | ▲86° ▼76°   |

| Micronesia    |              |         |
|---------------|--------------|---------|
| Guam and Rota | Mostly Sunny | ▲84 ▼75 |
| Palau         | Cloudy       | ▲87 ▼77 |
| Yap           | Showers      | ▲85 ▼77 |
| Chuuk         | Showers      | ▲88 ▼77 |
| Pohnpei       | Showers      | ▲84 ▼74 |
| Kosrae        | Cloudy       | ▲87 ▼78 |
| Majuro        | Showers      | ▲85 ▼76 |

| Around The Globe |              |         |
|------------------|--------------|---------|
| Auckland         | Sunny        | ▲69 ▼54 |
| Beijing          | Mostly Sunny | ▲64 ▼37 |
| Hong Kong        | Showers      | ▲72 ▼68 |
| Honolulu         | Cloudy       | ▲77 ▼68 |
| London           | Rain         | ▲52 ▼39 |
| Los Angeles      | Mostly Sunny | ▲74 ▼54 |
| Manila           | Showers      | ▲85 ▼75 |
| Melbourne        | Dreary       | ▲73 ▼49 |
| Miami            | Mostly Sunny | ▲80 ▼70 |
| New York         | Rain         | ▲48 ▼43 |
| Osaka            | Rain/Snow    | ▲50 ▼42 |
| Paris            | Rain         | ▲49 ▼41 |
| Pusan            | Mostly Sunny | ▲58 ▼33 |
| Rome             | Showers      | ▲60 ▼43 |
| Salem            | Partly Sunny | ▲54 ▼37 |
| San Francisco    | Mostly Sunny | ▲67 ▼50 |
| Seoul            | Mostly Sunny | ▲46 ▼28 |
| Tokyo            | Cloudy       | ▲52 ▼38 |
| Washington, DC   | Rain         | ▲48 ▼44 |

| Tides         |            |          |
|---------------|------------|----------|
| Saipan Harbor |            |          |
| 1:28 AM Today | Low Tide:  | 0.3 Feet |
| 7:31 AM Today | High Tide: | 1.9 Feet |
| 1:52 PM Today | Low Tide:  | 0.4 Feet |
| 7:47 PM Today | High Tide: | 1.9 Feet |



**PICTURE TIME: 1:10PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2009**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from 5N130E to a weak circulation centered near 5N140E then continues southeastward to the equator at 151E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of the trough from 130E to 142E. Trade-wind convergence east of 149E is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between 2N and 7N from 148E to 161E. This area includes Chuuk and is just south of Pohnpei. A cold front running from northeast of 19N180 to about 14N174E is producing scattered showers within 225 miles southeast of the front. This feature is southeast of Wake Island and northeast of Majuro.

| Sunrise/Sunset |         |         | Moonrise/Moonset |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|------------------|---------|---------|
| Today          | 6:17 AM | 6:29 PM | Today            | 5:38 AM | 6:05 PM |
| Friday         | 6:16 AM | 6:29 PM | Friday           | 6:16 AM | 6:58 PM |
| Saturday       | 6:16 AM | 6:29 PM | Saturday         | 6:57 AM | 7:54 PM |
| Sunday         | 6:15 AM | 6:29 PM | Sunday           | 7:41 AM | 8:54 PM |
| Monday         | 6:14 AM | 6:29 PM | Monday           | 8:31 AM | 9:56 PM |

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- SAMUT SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

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Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009  |         |         |                 |  |                         |         |          |               |  |
|---|---------|---------|-----------------|--|-------------------------|---------|----------|---------------|--|
| DEPARTURES  |         |         |                 |  | ARRIVALS                |         |          |               |  |
| <b>Saipan-Rota</b>  |         |         |                 |  | <b>Rota-Saipan</b>      |         |          |               |  |
| CO9597  | 11:50am | 12:25pm | 1,7             |  | CO 9598                 | 3:25am  | 4:00am   | 5,6           |  |
| <b>Saipan-Guam</b>  |         |         |                 |  | <b>Guam-Saipan</b>      |         |          |               |  |
| CO9317  | 5:00am  | 5:50am  | Daily           |  | CO 9316                 | 2:30am  | 3:20am   | 1,2,3,4,7     |  |
| CO9313  | 8:30am  | 9:20am  | Daily           |  | CO9598                  | 2:30am  | 4:00am   | 5,6 via Rota  |  |
| CO9597  | 11:50am | 1:20pm  | 1,7 via Rota    |  | CO9596                  | 7:00am  | 7:50am   | Daily         |  |
| CO9601  | 12:30pm | 1:20pm  | 2,3,4,5,6       |  | CO9600                  | 10:20am | 11:10am  | Daily         |  |
| CO9603  | 3:30pm  | 4:20pm  | Daily           |  | CO9602                  | 2:00pm  | 2:50pm   | Daily         |  |
| CO9605  | 6:30pm  | 7:20pm  | Daily           |  | CO9604                  | 5:00pm  | 5:50pm   | Daily         |  |
| CO9599  | 9:30pm  | 10:20pm | Daily           |  | CO9606                  | 8:00pm  | 8:50pm   | Daily         |  |
| <b>Saipan-Narita</b>  |         |         |                 |  | <b>Narita-Saipan</b>    |         |          |               |  |
| NW 099  | 5:00am  | 7:35am  | Daily           |  | NW 076                  | 10:15am | 2:40pm   | Daily         |  |
| NW 078  | 8:20am  | 1:30pm  | 2,3,4,5,6,7     |  | NW 077                  | 6:25pm  | 1:20am+1 | 2,3,4,5,6,7   |  |
| NW 075  | 4:55pm  | 7:30pm  | Daily           |  | NW 100                  | 8:45pm  | 1:10am+1 | Daily         |  |
| <b>Guam-Narita</b>  |         |         |                 |  | <b>Narita-Guam</b>      |         |          |               |  |
| NW 73   | 4:10pm  | 7:00pm  | Daily           |  | NW 74                   | 9:45am  | 2:20pm   | Daily         |  |
| NW 81   | 3:55pm  | 6:55pm  | Daily           |  | NW 82                   | 10:30am | 3:10pm   | Daily         |  |
| <b>Saipan-Osaka</b>   |         |         |                 |  | <b>Osaka-Saipan</b>     |         |          |               |  |
| OZ 119  | 4:00am  | 6:40am  | 1,4,6           |  | OZ 120                  | 9:50pm  | 2:20am+1 | 3,5,7         |  |
| <b>Guam-Osaka</b>   |         |         |                 |  | <b>Osaka-Guam</b>       |         |          |               |  |
| NW 79   | 4:45pm  | 7:35pm  | Daily           |  | NW 80                   | 10:30am | 3:00pm   | Daily         |  |
| <b>Saipan-Nagoya</b>  |         |         |                 |  | <b>Nagoya-Saipan</b>    |         |          |               |  |
| NW 078  | 8:20am  | 11:05am | Daily           |  | NW 077                  | 9:00pm  | 1:20am+1 | Daily         |  |
| <b>Guam-Nagoya</b>  |         |         |                 |  | <b>Nagoya-Guam</b>      |         |          |               |  |
| NW 23   | 4:30pm  | 7:20pm  | Daily           |  | NW 24                   | 10:00am | 2:30pm   | Daily         |  |
| <b>Saipan-Incheon</b>   |         |         |                 |  | <b>Incheon-Saipan</b>   |         |          |               |  |
| OZ 604  | 2:10am  | 6:00am  | 1               |  | OZ 605                  | 9:00am  | 2:20pm   | Daily         |  |
| OZ 604  | 2:40am  | 6:30am  | 2,3,4,5,6,7     |  | OZ 603                  | 7:40pm  | 1:00am+1 | 7             |  |
| OZ 119  | 4:00am  | 11:25am | 1,4,6 via Osaka |  | OZ 120                  | 7:10pm  | 2:20am+1 | 3,5,7         |  |
| OZ 606  | 3:20pm  | 7:00pm  | Daily           |  | OZ 603                  | 8:10pm  | 1:30am+1 | 1,2,3,4,5,6   |  |
| <b>Saipan-Busan</b>   |         |         |                 |  | <b>Busan-Saipan</b>     |         |          |               |  |
| OZ 608  | 3:20am  | 6:50am  | 1,4,5,7         |  | OZ 607                  | 9:00pm  | 2:10am+1 | 3,4,6,7       |  |
| <b>Saipan-Shanghai</b>  |         |         |                 |  | <b>Shanghai-Saipan</b>  |         |          |               |  |
| FM 844  | 2:50am  | 5:40am  | 2,6             |  | FM 843                  | 7:15pm  | 1:50am+1 | 1,5           |  |
| <b>Rota-Guam</b>  |         |         |                 |  | <b>Guam-Rota</b>        |         |          |               |  |
| CO 9597   | 12:50pm | 1:20pm  | 1,7             |  | CO 9598                 | 2:30am  | 3:00am   | 5,6           |  |
| <b>Guam-Palau</b>   |         |         |                 |  | <b>Palau-Guam</b>       |         |          |               |  |
| CO 953  | 7:40pm  | 8:40pm  | 1,7             |  | CO 954                  | 2:30am  | 5:25am   | 1,2           |  |
| CO 893  | 5:50pm  | 6:50pm  | 3,5             |  | CO 892                  | 2:35am  | 5:30am   | 4,6           |  |
| <b>Palau-Manila</b>   |         |         |                 |  | <b>Manila-Palau</b>     |         |          |               |  |
| CO 893  | 7:35pm  | 9:10pm  | 3,5             |  | CO 892                  | 10:10pm | 1:50am+1 | 3,5           |  |
| <b>Guam-Manila</b>  |         |         |                 |  | <b>Manila-Guam</b>      |         |          |               |  |
| CO 893  | 5:50pm  | 9:10pm  | 3,5 via Koror   |  | CO 892                  | 10:10pm | 5:30am+1 | 3,5 via Koror |  |
| CO 933  | 8:00pm  | 9:40pm  | Daily           |  | CO 934                  | 11:10pm | 4:05am+1 | Daily         |  |
| PR 111  | 6:00am  | 7:50am  | 1,2,4,6,7       |  | PR 110                  | 10:10pm | 4:00am+1 | 1,3,5,6,7     |  |
| <b>Nagoya-Manila</b>  |         |         |                 |  | <b>Manila-Nagoya</b>    |         |          |               |  |
| NW 71   | 8:40pm  | 11:55pm | Daily           |  | NW 72                   | 6:30am  | 11:05am  | Daily         |  |
| <b>Incheon-Hongkong</b>   |         |         |                 |  | <b>Hongkong-Incheon</b> |         |          |               |  |
| OZ 721  | 9:20am  | 12:00pm | Daily           |  | OZ 724                  | 12:30am | 4:50am   | Daily         |  |
| OZ 723  | 7:45pm  | 10:35pm | Daily           |  | OZ 7183                 | 12:45am | 5:05am   | 1,4,6         |  |
| OZ 7173   | 8:00pm  | 10:50pm | 5,7             |  | OZ 722                  | 1:30pm  | 5:45pm   | Daily         |  |
| <b>Narita-Manila</b>  |         |         |                 |  | <b>Manila-Narita</b>    |         |          |               |  |
| NW 1  | 7:00pm  | 10:55pm | Daily           |  | NW 2                    | 7:45am  | 12:40pm  | Daily         |  |
| Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana<br>ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.) |         |         |                 |  |                         |         |          |               |  |

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline              | ETD     | ETA     | Frequency | Airline  | ETD     | ETA     | Frequency |
|----------------------|---------|---------|-----------|--|---------|---------|-----------|
| <b>Guam-Rota</b>     |         |         |           | FRE 113  | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily     |
| FRE 100              | 7:00am  | 7:30am  | Daily     | FRE 115  | 1:00pm  | 1:10pm  | Daily     |
| <b>Rota-Saipan</b>   |         |         |           | FRE 117  | 2:30pm  | 2:40pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 100              | 7:50am  | 8:20am  | Daily     | FRE 119  | 4:00pm  | 4:10pm  | Daily     |
| <b>Saipan-Rota</b>   |         |         |           | FRE 121  | 4:40pm  | 4:50pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 200              | 9:00am  | 9:30am  | Daily     | FRE 123 *  | 5:40pm  | 5:50pm  | Daily     |
| <b>Rota-Guam</b>     |         |         |           | FRE 125 *  | 6:00pm  | 6:10pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 200              | 9:50am  | 10:15am | Daily     | <b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b> |         |         |           |
| <b>Guam-Rota</b>     |         |         |           | FRE 102  | 7:05am  | 7:15am  | Daily     |
| FRE 300              | 4:00pm  | 4:30pm  | Daily     | FRE 104  | 7:50am  | 8:00am  | Daily     |
| <b>Rota-Saipan</b>   |         |         |           | FRE 106**  | 8:20am  | 8:30am  | Daily     |
| FRE 300              | 4:50pm  | 5:25pm  | Daily     | FRE 108**  | 9:00am  | 9:10am  | Daily     |
| <b>Saipan-Rota</b>   |         |         |           | FRE 110  | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily     |
| FRE 400              | 6:00pm  | 6:30pm  | Daily     | FRE 112  | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily     |
| <b>Rota-Guam</b>     |         |         |           | FRE 114  | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily     |
| FRE 400              | 6:45pm  | 7:15pm  | Daily     | FRE 116  | 1:30pm  | 1:40pm  | Daily     |
| <b>Saipan-Tinian</b> |         |         |           | FRE 118  | 2:50pm  | 3:00pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 101              | 6:45am  | 6:55am  | Daily     | FRE 120**  | 4:20pm  | 4:30pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 103              | 7:30am  | 7:40am  | Daily     | FRE 122**  | 5:00pm  | 5:10pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 105              | 8:00am  | 8:10am  | Daily     | FRE 124  | 6:05pm  | 6:15pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 107              | 8:40am  | 8:50am  | Daily     | FRE 126  | 6:20pm  | 6:30pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 109*             | 9:10am  | 9:20am  | Daily     |  |         |         |           |
| FRE 111*             | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily     |  |         |         |           |



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Shai elected as Tinian Republican Party president



Members of the Tinian Republican Party chose Edward Shai to be the 2009 party president in an election held March 21 on Tinian.

Shai thanked the Central Party committee members for their confidence in his ability to lead the party through the 2009 election.

"We are at a critical time in our island's history. Because the airport has not been completed and the dump has not been moved, our casino revenues are in danger. In the future, the Marines will be arriving on Tinian. We need new leaders who can lead us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century," he told members.

The party also elected as its 2009 officers Antonio S.N. Borja, first vice president; Anthony U. Hofschneider, second vice president; Carmen Q. Dela Cruz, secretary; and Gabriel DLC. Evangelista, treasurer.

Ramon Muna Dela Cruz, the 2008 party president, opened the meeting, thanking his fellow Republican Party officers and members for their support last year. "Every single member of this party has demonstrated their dedication to maintaining our strength through these difficult last four years. Many of you have sacrificed your livelihood because of your dedication to the party. As a result of your efforts, and the fail-

ure of this incumbent administration, we are stronger today than ever before, and I thank you for your sacrifices. I am confident that with your continued support, we will win this election," he said.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider said, "Tinian cannot continue with an administration where only a few have bread and the rest crumbs. We must restore integrity to our municipal government by properly enacting annual budgets that fund priority issues. I do hope that the people of Tinian will support the Republican Party in this election so that we can bring back open and honest government to Tinian."

Former congressman Norman Palacios agreed that it is time for change on Tinian. "All we have heard from this mayor is broken promises. He has lost touch with the people. We need to elect new leadership that listens to the needs of the people and will work for the people, not for themselves."

Former councilman Francisco Quichocho Cruz said he did not run for re-election two years ago "because I could no longer be a part of what is going on in the mayor's office. I was a Republican before, I am a Republican again, and I will forever be a Republican. I am here now to work with the leadership of the Republican Party to elect the leadership we need for the 21<sup>st</sup> century."



## COBRA's impact on HR matters

Francis Santos, the consulting associate administrator for StayWell Insurance, will be the featured speaker in today's membership meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter.

Santos will be presenting important information on the newly enacted requirements under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, COBRA. COBRA provides workers, who have lost or changed employment, the right to continue the group health benefits provided by their former employer's group health plan for themselves and their family for a limited period of time and under certain circumstances.

The recent American Recovery Reinvestment Act, the so-called stimulus law, includes significant changes that employers must implement immediately and includes retroactive notifications

back to Sept. 1, 2008. These changes to health care benefits under COBRA, including federal subsidies for continued health care coverage, will be discussed at the SHRM meeting, along with other important facets of COBRA.

The meeting will be held at Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club Saipan today, March 26, 2009. Doors open at 11:15am for registration. The cost for members is \$20 and \$30 for non-SHRM members (government purchase orders accepted). Cost includes lunch and materials.

Reservations are requested. Individuals interested in attending this meeting should contact the following individuals: Marlene C. Cruz at marlenecruz@hotmail.com. Or by calling 483-4647; Vicky Hall at vickyhall1055@hotmail.com, or Michelle Guerrero at m.guerrero@pticom.com. (PR)

## 35 OES are students inducted to the National Elementary Honor Society



Oleai Elementary School students pose for a picture after being inducted as new members of the National Elementary Honor Society in a ceremony held at the Pacific Islands Club on Saturday, March 21, 2009.

Thirty-five students from Oleai Elementary School were inducted as new members of the National Elementary Honor Society in a ceremony held at the Pacific Islands Club on Saturday, March 21, 2009.

Members were selected by the chapter's faculty council for meeting high standards of academic excellence and responsibility. Students inducted were:

### 4TH GRADE

Deion Aguon Xavier, Chloe Ann Fegurgur, Keana Gates, Jeanille DLC. Lizama, Nemerlyn Magat, Vynzent D. Manacop, Kiara Kozette Y. Sablan

### 5TH GRADE

Raymon Agno, Robert Buniag, Lowell Cristobal, Elaine Enriquez, Carmelino Garcia, Yea Rin Kwon,

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[www.nehs.org](http://www.nehs.org)

Jheanillette Lamberto, Kaela Mae Millano, Jorwen Palma, Meeko Reyes, Jasmine Weilbacher, Il-larchem P. Ythemar

### 6TH GRADE

Janelle Achondo, Roselie Agulto, Angelo Alvarez, Noemi Caacbay, Florina Cordero, Braylan Floresca, Vinnie Inos, Angelyn Labaden, Ursula Lizama, Yoneil Maniacop, Hercia Nekaifes, Angeline Orsini, Keina Santos, Rosien Spis, John Taisacan, Midcat Tipingeni

"We are very proud to recognize these outstanding members of our student body. National Elementary Honor Society members are chosen for and

Former Mayor Francisco M. Borja said, "The vast majority of Tinian people I meet today are dissatisfied with the incumbent administration. We need serious leadership that can face the serious problems our island faces today and produce the serious changes that must be made if our island economy is to grow. Only within the Tinian Republican Party do I see that quality leadership. Therefore, I have decided to join the Tinian Republican Party and give my full support to the candidates they select for this November's election."

Shai closed the meeting by inviting all residents of Tinian to join the movement for a new leadership. "We are an open party. We welcome all who support the concept of open and honest government. Our party meetings will be made public and we invite each and every concerned citizen to join our cause. Together, we can make a change in 2009." (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Tinian Republican Party pose for a picture after holding an election to select new officers on March 21 on Tinian.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

then expected to continue their exemplary contributions to the school and community," said Glenn Muña, principal of the school.

The Oleai Elementary School Chapter has been established since August 2008. Each year the chapter participates in several projects for the school and community which include the upcoming American Red Cross Walkathon.

The National Elementary Honor Society was established in 2008 to recognize outstanding elementary level students in grades 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. The organization is a program of the National Association of Secondary School Principals in cooperation with the National Association of Elementary School Principals. For more information, visit [www.nehs.org](http://www.nehs.org). (PR)



## LOCAL

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Meetings at the Legislature**

■ Teen Talk will do a presentation at the Legislature today, March 26 at 3:30pm in the House Chamber

■ Pre-Economic Summit Government Working Session tomorrow, March 27, at 8:30am-1pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

■ Public Utilities Commission rate hearings for water, wastewater, and power tomorrow, March 27, at 1pm in the Senate chamber.

**NMC alumni barbecue bash**

The NMC Alumni Association is inviting all NMC alumni to the first ever "NMC Alumni Reunion Barbecue Bash" to be held at Managaha on April 4, 2009. There will be food, fun, drinks, and games. Interested alumni can log on to [www.nmcnet.edu](http://www.nmcnet.edu) and register on the alumni page. Alumni membership cards are now available and include discounts to businesses and access to NMC facilities. Come and hang out with former classmates from NMC. Interested alumni can also email Vice President Chris Cabrera at [mistercabrera@yahoo.com](mailto:mistercabrera@yahoo.com) or Laura Williams at [laurawilliams7@gmail.com](mailto:laurawilliams7@gmail.com) for more info. (PR)

**Puengin Inetnon on Friday**

Puengin Inetnon will be held again tomorrow, March 27, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that will take place every government payday. It will begin at 4:30pm and end at 10pm. There will vendors selling food, drinks, snacks, clothing, and crafts. Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun, right here in Kagman. Interested vendors can call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for applications. (PR)

**Kagman Saturday Flea Market**

Kagman's Saturday Flea Market will be on Saturday, March 28, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. You may only sell your used items. Tents will be provided. Interested sellers can call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for more info. (PR)

**Article 12 focus of next Chamber meeting**

The next general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be held at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club on April 1. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. As usual, the meeting is \$15 for members, \$20 for guests of members, and \$25 for general public. Speakers at the meeting will be members of the Citizens for Change of Article XII group, who will discuss their efforts with regard to the land alienation laws in the Commonwealth. (PR)

**Corporate Challenge reset to May 17**

Due to some conflicting events, the 2009 Corporate Challenge of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is being rescheduled. After a meeting with the team captains for the companies that already registered, it was agreed that the event will take place on Sunday, May 17. Everything else remains the same. Register now and join the Chamber for a day of guaranteed fun and camaraderie. (PR)

**CDD awards ceremony postponed**

This is to inform the Public that the Developmental Disabilities Award Ceremony scheduled for tomorrow, March 27, 2009 from 9am to 11:30am will be postponed. The new schedule will be announced at a later date. For more information, contact the Council on Developmental Disabilities office at 664-7000, 7001, 7002, or 7003. (PR)

**Live fire releases on Farallon**

The U.S. military is conducting live fire releases on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla until March 31, 2009, from 8am to 3am, and on April 1 to 3, 2009, also from 8am to 3am.

The location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla training area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO's Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

**Quarterly tax return deadline**

The Division of Revenue and Taxation wishes to remind all CNMI residents that the 2009 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter deadline for filing the quarterly tax returns is Thursday, April 30, 2009. The Division of Revenue and Taxation will be open from 7:30am to 4:30pm on Thursday, April 30, 2009. The office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation is located at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. For more information, call 664-1000, 664-1043 Compliance Branch, or 664-1066 Collection Branch. (PR)

**Income tax return deadline**

The Division of Revenue and Taxation wishes to inform all CNMI residents that the deadline for filing of the 2008 individual Income Tax Return is Wednesday, April 15, 2009, at the office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation located at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. Deadline hours for April 15, 2009 are from 7:30am to 4:30pm. (PR)

**Pre-economic summit sessions set**

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is reminding the public of the upcoming Economic Restoration Summit, set for April 2-3, 2009. In preparation for the Summit, there will be a meeting today, March 26, for government officials to gather preliminary information and ideas. It will be held at the Multi-Purpose Center, from 8:30am to 12pm. The session will be broadcast through video teleconference to Rota and Tinian participants. (PR)

**Red Cross Walkathon set**

The 23rd Annual American Red Cross Walkathon will be held this Saturday, March 28, at 6am, starting at the 4H Building on Beach Road in Susupe.

Register for \$15 and receive a free t-shirt. Walkers start at the designated starting point, then walk north toward the Garapan Fishing Base, then back to Susupe.

Drinks and sandwiches will be available at the start and finish points, and along the routes. Protect yourselves, the young and the old by following the directions of the safety officers. Prizes are available and have been generously donated by the business community. For more information contact the Red Cross Chapter at 234-3459. (PR)

**Marianas High School schedule**

|                 |                                     |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| April 6-7       | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Final Exams |
| April 8         | 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter begins      |
| April 9-13      | Easter break                        |
| April 27- May 1 | SAT10 Tests (Grade 9-11)            |
| May 4-15        | Advanced Placement Exams            |
| May 18-22       | PSS SBA Tests                       |
| May 25          | No classes (Memorial Day)           |
| June 11         | Graduation Ceremony                 |
| June 15         | End of 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter      |

For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. (PR)

**KagES sets cultural day fest**

The Kagman Elementary School will be hosting its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Cultural Day Festivities on March 28, 2009, Saturday, at the campus grounds, from 8:30am to 3pm. Everyone is welcome to attend; bring the whole family. (PR)

## Business

## Obama claims gains in fight against economic woes



AP  
President Barack Obama speaks during a news conference, Tuesday, March 24, 2009, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama claimed early progress Tuesday night in his aggressive campaign to lead the nation out of economic chaos and declared that despite obstacles ahead, "we're moving in the right direction." At the second prime-time news conference of his presidency, Obama also toned down his criticism of bonuses to executives at bailed-out AIG, and shot back at Republican critics

of his budget.

In office for 64 tumultuous days, Obama cast his budget - now under review in Congress—as essential if the economy is to recover. The tax and spending plan "is inseparable from this recovery because it is what lays the foundation for a secure and lasting prosperity," he said.

The president also defended the U.S. dollar in the wake of China's suggestion for a uni-

versal currency, saying: "The dollar is extraordinarily strong right now," and "I don't believe that there is a need for a global currency."

The news conference, lasting 55 minutes, came at a pivotal, early moment in Obama's young presidency. Democrats in Congress are readying budget proposals that will largely determine how much of his first-term agenda will be passed, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is churning out near-daily proposals to solve the nation's economic crisis and the administration is struggling with public and congressional outrage over bonuses paid to executives of bailed-out AIG. Additionally, Obama departs next week for his first European trip as commander in chief, with the global economy a major focus.

Flexible on some points, Obama was unyielding on others. Pressed on why he seemed to delay before condemning the AIG bonuses, Obama said, "It took us a couple of days because I like to know what I'm talking about before I speak."

## Officials seek new power over financial companies

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pointing with dismay to the AIG debacle, the nation's top economic officials argued Tuesday for unprecedented powers to regulate and even take over financial goliaths whose collapse could imperil the entire economy. President Barack Obama agreed and said he hoped "it doesn't take too long to convince Congress."

Treasury Secretary Timothy

Geithner and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, in a rare joint appearance before a House committee, said the messy federal intervention into American International Group, an insurance giant, demonstrated a need to regulate complex nonbank financial institutions just as banks are now regulated by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

"AIG highlights broad fail-

ures of our financial system," Geithner told the House Financial Services Committee. "We must ensure that our country never faces this situation again."

But the two appeared divided over where the authority should reside. Geithner suggested his Treasury Department's powers be expanded. Bernanke was noncommittal, even suggesting the FDIC.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

**Wall Street gives up some ground after huge gains**

NEW YORK (AP)—A stock drop is never reassuring—except when it could have been worse. The Dow Jones industrial average shed 115 points, or 1.5 percent Tuesday. But it also held on to 382 of the 498 points it racked up a day earlier. Anyone with a 401(k) would have liked to see the rally continue. Market analysts said, though, that a pullback was expected given the massive gains Wall Street logged the day before when the government released plans to remove bad loans from banks' books. "We'll take that trading pattern any time," said Arthur Hogan, chief market analyst at Jefferies & Co. He said he came into work anticipating the Dow to drop as much as 2 percent Tuesday after the index jumped 6.8 percent Monday—its biggest gain since late October.

**GE gets \$300M contract for China gas pipeline**

FAIRFIELD, Conn. (AP)—General Electric Co. said Wednesday it has been awarded a \$300 million contract for work on a new east-west natural gas pipeline in China that is expected to boost use of the fuel in the energy-hungry and fast developing nation. GE's oil and gas division will provide compression equipment and

turbines for the PetroChina pipeline that will run 8,700 kilometers through 13 of China's provinces. It will extend from China's western provinces to the coastal city of Shanghai, serving 400 million people along its route. The pipeline, China's second east-west project, is expected to raise the share of natural gas in China's primary energy consumption to 5 percent from 3.5 percent.

**Investigators find abuse in small business program**

WASHINGTON (AP)—Because of lax oversight, undeserving companies collected millions in federal contracts from an \$8 billion government program designated for small businesses in poor neighborhoods, congressional investigators charge. The Small Business Administration repeatedly failed to verify paperwork and conduct audits to weed out sham firms claiming to have main offices in economically distressed areas, the Government Accountability Office said in a report released Wednesday, raising questions about an agency seeking to take a greater role in helping business owners stave off job losses. The GAO report examined SBA's Historically Underutilized Business Zone, or HUBZone, which was created in 1997 to help thousands of small firms in distressed areas.



# Nation

## Change of flight plan under scrutiny in MT crash

**BUTTE, Mont. (AP)**—Investigators said Tuesday that a pilot's change of course shortly before his plane nose-dived into a Butte cemetery, killing all 14 aboard, has emerged as a potentially crucial factor in the crash.

Flying at 25,000 feet, pilot Buddy Summerfield requested the diversion from Bozeman to Butte half an hour before the single-engine Pilatus PC-12 crashed at the edge of Butte's airport Sunday. Seven children under the age of 10 were among the victims.

National Transportation Safety Board acting Chairman Mark Rosenker says why the plane diverted is at the forefront of his agency's investigation.

"It begins with that question—the 25,000-foot diversion to go to Butte," Rosenker said.

Summerfield said nothing to controllers to indicate he was having trouble, and did not say why he was changing course from Bozeman to Butte, about 75 miles away.

Rosenker also revealed that the plane's landing gear was down but its wing flaps were up at the time of the crash. That's unusual for a landing aircraft but not unheard of, said the inves-



An NTSB investigator examines the scene at Holy Cross Cemetery, the site of the fatal plane crash which killed 14 people on Sunday, in Butte, Mont., on Tuesday, March 24, 2009. AP

tigator in charge of the accident, Dennis Hogenson.

Also under scrutiny are weather conditions that could have caused icing on the plane's wings and possible overloading. The plane was configured to seat just 10 people, but the fact that several of the 14 passengers were small children has dampened speculation that excess weight was a factor.

The investigation has been hampered by the lack of a cockpit voice recorder or data recorder, which were not required on the private flight. Rosenker said his agency may subpoena cell phone records of the victims to see if they could provide further clues.

Federal officials on Tuesday gave a few reporters and photographers their first close look at Sunday's crash site.

Working among rows of charred granite headstones cordoned off by yellow police tape, investigators removed the last of the victims' luggage as they combed through the wreckage. Shredded metal, pieces of propeller and a seat cushion were among the few discernible items left at the scene.

## White House steps up anti-cartel fight on border

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Hundreds of federal agents, along with high-tech surveillance gear and drug-sniffing dogs, are headed to the Southwest to help Mexico fight drug cartels and keep violence from spilling across the U.S.-Mexico border, Obama administration officials said Tuesday.

The border security initiative, which expands on efforts begun during the Bush administration, is aimed at drug traffickers who have wreaked havoc in Mexico in recent years and are blamed for a spate of kidnappings and home invasions in some U.S. cities.

The plan was announced as Sec-

retary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton prepares to travel Wednesday to Mexico for the start of several weeks of high-level meetings between the two countries on the drug violence issue. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Attorney General Eric Holder are expected to meet with Mexican officials in early April.

The Obama administration's multi-agency plan includes nearly 500 agents and support personnel. However, officials did not say where the additional agents would come from or how long they would stay at the border.

Napolitano said officials were still considering whether to deploy the National Guard to the Arizona and Texas borders with Mexico, which the governors had requested.

Deputy Attorney General David Ogden said the combined efforts of the U.S. and Mexican governments would "destroy these criminal organizations."

Rep. Lamar Smith, the senior Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, said he was happy to see the administration getting more aggressive with the cartels, but he worried about what would see less attention in the U.S.

"I am concerned that when you're

taking almost 500 law enforcement agents from one place to another, wherever place they're leaving is go-

ing to be understaffed and will mean that some laws are not being enforced," said Smith, R-Texas.

## Jindal urges GOP to stand up to Obama

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal again found himself carrying the Republican mantle opposite a primetime appearance from President Barack Obama on Tuesday, saying Republicans must be ready to defy the president when they disagree with his policies. He also joked about his widely panned response to Obama's address to Congress last month.

"We are now in the position of being the loyal opposition," Jindal said at a Republican congressional fundraising dinner that only by coincidence fell on the same night as Obama's news conference. "The right question to ask is not if we want the president to fail or succeed, but whether we want America to succeed."

Saying "the time for talking about the past is over," Jindal said Republicans have begun to find their voice after back-to-back elections losses—motivated by what he called historic

Democratic spending excess.

Jindal is widely considered a potential 2012 GOP presidential candidate, but his televised response to Obama's speech at the Capitol last month was widely panned. Some compared his delivery to the late children's television host Mister Rogers and said the address could hurt Jindal's national potential.

At Tuesday's \$2,500-per-plate dinner—which President George W. Bush headlined last year—Jindal opened his speech by poking fun at himself. He threatened to deliver a reprise of the earlier performance and then jokingly compared it to torture.

"They're not allowed to show my speech at Gitmo anymore," he said. "They've banned that."

The National Republican Congressional Committee, which works to get Republicans elected to Congress, said it raised more than \$6 million at the event.



Jindal

## Urban League asks Obama to address black issues

**NEW YORK (AP)**—President Barack Obama should specifically address disparities in black unemployment, foreclosures, education and health care, the National Urban League says in its annual "State of Black America" report.

Despite the progress represented by the election of the first black president, blacks are twice as likely to be unemployed, three times as likely

to live in poverty and more than six times as likely to be incarcerated, says the report, which was being released Wednesday.

Obama has said that the way for government to help minorities is by improving things like education, employment and health care for all Americans.

But "we have to be more specific," said Marc Morial, president and CEO

of the 99-year-old Urban League.

"The issue is not only (blacks) doing better, but in closing these persistent gaps in statistics in this country," Morial told The Associated Press. "Our index shows that the gap in African-American status is about 71 percent that of white Americans. We will not rest until that number is at 100, and there is no gap."

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Bones may be from US grave of 57 Irish immigrants

**MALVERN, Pa. (AP)**—Researchers may have discovered a mass grave for nearly five dozen 19th-century Irish immigrants who died of cholera weeks after traveling to Pennsylvania to build a railroad. Historians at Immaculata University have known for years about the 57 immigrants who died in August 1832 but could not find the grave. Human bones discovered last week near the suburban Philadelphia university may at last reveal their final resting place—and possibly allow research-

ers to identify the remains and repatriate them. "We feel a kinship with these men," said Immaculata history professor William Watson. "Righting an injustice has led us to this point." The woody site where the bones were found is known as Duffy's Cut. It is named after Philip Duffy, who hired the immigrants from Donegal, Tyrone and Derry to help build the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad.

#### US takes steps to deport alleged Nazi to Germany

**CLEVELAND (AP)**—The U.S. government said Tuesday it is asking Ger-

man officials for travel documents needed to deport accused World War II Nazi guard John Demjanjuk, who is charged in Europe with 29,000 counts of accessory to murder. Immigration and Customs Enforcement provided an e-mail to The Associated Press showing that it has contacted the German government in its effort to deport Demjanjuk, once accused but ultimately cleared of being a notorious guard at the Treblinka concentration camp in occupied Poland. The 88-year-old suburban Cleveland man was charged in Germany in March with crimes while working as a guard at Sobibor, a Nazi death camp in

Poland. His son, John Demjanjuk Jr., said Tuesday that his father remains at home and is not in federal custody. The German warrant seeks the deportation or extradition of Demjanjuk, who lives in Seven Hills and denies involvement in any deaths.

#### Police: Abducted baby found unharmed in Florida

**PLANT CITY, Fla. (AP)**—A woman who authorities believe abducted a 2-month-old infant from her mother at a health clinic near Tampa turned in the baby unharmed to a Florida sher-

iff's office, officials said Tuesday. Capt. Darrell Wilson of the Plant City Police Department said detectives were en route to Manatee County, where Sandra Cruz-Francisco was turned in around 2 p.m. They said they expect to charge Amalia Pereira, 43, with kidnapping and will reunite the infant with her parents. "The child's doing well," Wilson said. An Amber Alert was issued a few hours after the child's mother reported her missing Monday evening. Rosa Sirilo-Francisco told authorities she took her daughter to the Plant City Health Department for her two-month checkup Monday around 3 p.m.



# Asia

## China calls for new global currency

**BEIJING (AP)**—China is calling for a new global currency to replace the dominant dollar, showing a growing assertiveness on revamping the world economy ahead of next week's London summit on the financial crisis.

The surprise proposal by Beijing's central bank governor reflects unease about its vast holdings of U.S. government bonds and adds to Chinese pressure to overhaul a global financial system dominated by the dollar and Western governments. Both the United States and the European Union brushed off the idea.

The world economic crisis shows the "inherent vulnerabilities and systemic risks in the existing international monetary system," Gov. Zhou Xiaochuan said in an essay released Monday by the bank. He recommended creating a currency made up of a basket of global currencies and controlled by the International Monetary Fund and said it would help "to achieve the objective of safeguarding global economic and financial stability."

Zhou did not mention the dollar by name. But in an unusual step, the essay was published in both Chinese and English, making clear it was meant for a foreign audience.

China has long been uneasy about relying on the dollar for the bulk of its trade and to store foreign reserves. Premier Wen Jiabao publicly appealed to Washington this month to avoid any response to the crisis that might weaken the dollar and the value of Beijing's estimated \$1 trillion in Treasuries and other U.S. government debt.

## YouTube blocked in China; official says video was fake

**BEIJING (AP)**—A video that appears to show police fatally beating a Tibetan protester was a fake concocted by supporters of the Dalai Lama, China said Tuesday—the same day the video-sharing network YouTube said its service had been blocked in China.

The video has been posted on YouTube in recent days.

A spokesman for Google, which owns YouTube, said he couldn't comment on the Chinese government's reason for the block.

"We are looking into it and working to ensure that the service is restored as soon as possible," spokesman Scott Rubin said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

China occasionally blocks YouTube to prevent access to videos that criticize or shine an unflattering light on its policies. Users in Beijing said they were unable to ac-

cess the site late Tuesday.

The official Xinhua News Agency, citing an unidentified official with China's Tibetan regional government, reported Tuesday that the video came from sources tied to the government-in-exile of the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader, and was pieced together from different places.

The Xinhua report said the footage purported to show a person named Tendar being beaten to death by police after a riot in Lhasa, the Tibet region's capital, on March 14 last year. Xinhua said the person was not in fact Tendar and the wounds shown were fake.

"The Dalai Lama group is used to fabricating lies to deceive the international community and the aim of this video is to hide the truth of the March 14th riot," Xinhua quoted the official as saying.

For decades, the dollar has been the world's most widely used currency. Many governments hold a large portion of their reserves in dollars. Crude oil and many commodities are priced in dollars. Business deals around the world are done in dollars.

But the financial crisis has highlighted how America's economic problems—and by extension the dollar—can wreak havoc on nations around the world. China is in a bind. To keep the value of its

currency steady—some say undervalued—the Chinese government has to recycle its huge trade surpluses, and the biggest, most liquid option for investing them is U.S. government debt.

To better insulate countries from the ills of one country or one currency, Zhou said the IMF should create a "reserve currency" based on shares in the body held by its 185 member nations, known as special drawing rights, or SDRs.

litical crisis that showed the country's volatility as the fight against terrorism intensifies. Judge If-tikhar Mohammed Chaudhry also faced demands to investigate the disappearance of hundreds of people believed detained by security forces since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States. Chaudhry, hailed by supporters as a fearless and independent justice, was dismissed two years ago by then-President Pervez Musharraf, spawning protests by lawyers that helped oust the U.S.-backed military ruler in 2008. Musharraf's successor, Asif Ali Zardari, had resisted demands to reinstate Chaudhry, apparently out of fears he may examine a deal that has provided Zardari protection from prosecution on corruption claims.

### Bomb kills 7 civilians in eastern Afghanistan

**KABUL (AP)**—A roadside bomb ripped through a van carrying civilians in eastern Afghanistan, killing seven people and wounding nine others Wednesday, a provincial police chief said. The explosion happened in Sabari district of the eastern Khost province while the van was on a road also used by foreign and Afghan troops, said Police Chief Abdul Qajum Bakizoy. He blamed Taliban militants for planting the bomb. The Taliban and other insurgent groups regularly use roadside bombs in their attacks against Afghan and foreign troops, but the majority of the victims in such attacks have been civilian. The number of such incidents rose by 30 percent in 2008, according to NATO. Sabari district is known for militant activity and clashes between U.S. coalition troops and insurgents.

# World

## Centrist Labor joins new Israeli government

**JERUSALEM (AP)**—Israel's Labor Party voted Tuesday to join the incoming government of Benjamin Netanyahu, lending a moderate voice to a coalition dominated by hard liners and easing concerns of a head-on confrontation with Washington over Mideast peacemaking.

Chants of "Disgrace! Disgrace!" echoed through the

convention hall after Defense Minister Ehud Barak pushed through the proposal despite angry opposition from party activists who feared Labor would give only a superficial gloss to a government little interested in moving toward peace.

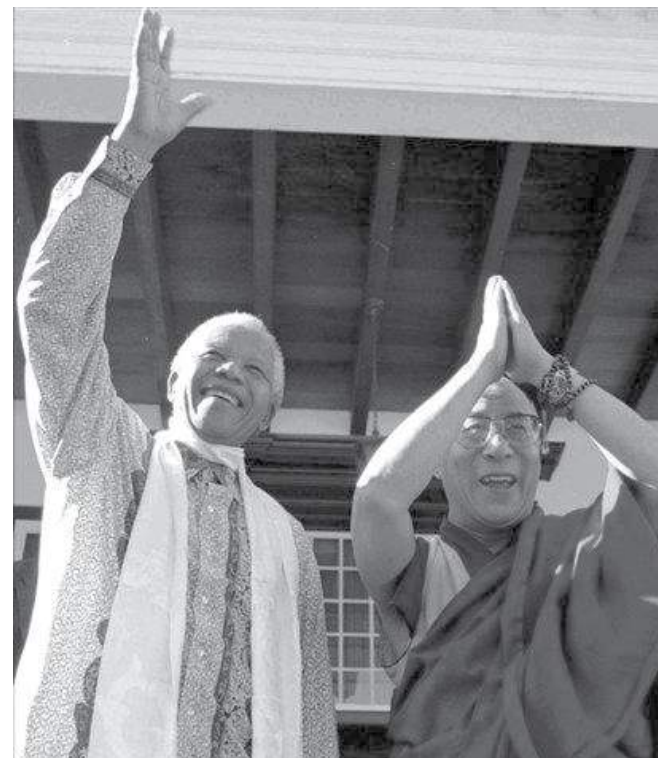
Labor's move gives Netanyahu's coalition a majority of 66 in the 120-seat parliament.

Labor's decision, by a 680-

507 vote, paves the way for a broader government than the narrow and hawkish one Netanyahu would otherwise have had to settle for, increasing his chances of gaining international acceptance.

Barak was set to remain defense minister, a key position in the new Cabinet, that could allow Labor to promote peace efforts with the Palestinians.

## S. Africa peace conference postponed over Dalai Lama



In this Wednesday August 21, 1996, file photo Tibetan leader the Dalai Lama, right, meets with President Nelson Mandela, left, in Cape Town South Africa.

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)**—Organizers shelved a peace conference meant to show how sports can bring people and nations together because South Africa's government—fearing trouble with China—won't al-

low the Dalai Lama to attend.

South Africa's soccer officials and a grandson of Nelson Mandela, who were putting Friday's conference together, announced Tuesday it was postponed indefinitely

because the Dalai Lama had been barred.

The conference had been in doubt since South Africa's government said a day earlier the Dalai Lama was not welcome, prompting condemnation and a boycott by retired Cape Town Archbishop Desmond Tutu and others.

Queen Rania of Jordan, the entire Nobel Peace Committee, other laureates and Hollywood actress Charlize Theron, a native of South Africa, had been among those confirmed to attend.

Friday's conference was intended to highlight ways soccer can promote peace, and all Nobel peace laureates had been invited, along with world statesmen and celebrities. Irvin Khoza, who is chairman of the South African committee organizing the 2010 World Cup, also heads the professional soccer league that was arranging and funding the conference.

Organizers said they hoped to hold the event when the Dalai Lama could attend, and that they hoped that would be before the World Cup. South Africa's tournament will be the first in Africa.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Japanese man certified as double A-bomb victim

**TOKYO (AP)**—A 93-year-old Japanese man has become the first person certified as a survivor of both U.S. atomic bombings at the end of World War II, officials said Tuesday. Tsutomu Yamaguchi had already been a certified "hibakusha," or radiation survivor, of the Aug. 9, 1945, atomic bombing in Nagasaki, but has now been confirmed as surviving the attack on Hiroshima three days earlier as well, city officials said. Yamaguchi was in Hiroshima on a business trip on Aug. 6, 1945, when a U.S. B-29 dropped an atomic bomb on the city. He suffered serious burns to his upper body and spent the night in the city. He then returned to his hometown of Nagasaki just in time for the second attack, city officials said. "As far as we know, he is the first one to be officially recognized as a survivor of atomic bombings in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki," Nagasaki city official Toshiro Miyamoto said. "It's such an unfortunate case, but it is possible that there are more people like him." Certification qualifies survivors for government compensation—including monthly allowances, free medical checkups and funeral costs—but Yamaguchi's compensation will not increase, Miyamoto said.

#### Pakistan's top judge back after 2 years of turmoil

**ISLAMABAD (AP)**—Pakistan's supreme court chief justice called for an end to judicial corruption after returning to bench Tuesday for the first time in two years—brought back to resolve a po-

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### France to compensate nuclear test victims

**PARIS (AP)**—The French government offered for the first time Tuesday to compensate victims of nuclear tests in Algeria and the South Pacific, bowing to decades of pressure by people sickened by radiation—and seeking to soothe France's conscience. "It's time for our country to be at peace with itself, at peace thanks to a system of compensation and reparations," French Defense Minister Herve Morin said in presenting a draft law on the payouts. Victims cautiously welcomed the move, nearly 50 years after France conducted its first atomic tests. But they say it's still too stingy, and is only a first step toward healing wounds left by explosions that sent blinding white flashes cascading over French Polynesia and the Sahara Desert. The French government will set aside some euro10 million (\$13.5 million) for the compensation for the first year, Morin said. The U.S. government, by comparison, has approved more than \$1.38 billion in compensation to victims of nuclear tests since the enactment of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act in 1990.

#### British code crackers reunite, with pride unbroken

**BLETCHLEY PARK, England (AP)**—During World War II, the best brains in Britain cracked Germany's encrypted secrets but never broke their own code of silence. Now gray-haired and using walking sticks and at least one wheelchair, the legendary code breakers returned for a reunion Tuesday at Bletchley Park, where they labored in the grim, blacked-out rooms and played a key role in defeating the Nazis. The code breakers who worked here in anonymity helped alter history, frustrating Adolf Hitler's ambitions by giving Prime Minister Winston Churchill and his wartime Cabinet crucial advance knowledge of Germany's invasion plans, defenses, and U-boat movements. Age has not dimmed the code breakers' fierce pride. They don't boast—the British don't do that—but they know they saved lives. "Do you know what Churchill called us?" said Jean Valentine, 84, her blue eyes flashing. "He called us 'the geese that laid the golden eggs but never cackled.'"



# Environment

## San Vicente Elementary class creates solar cooker

*Editor's Note: The introduction to this article was written by Val-rick Welch but the science project was written by students in Ms. Brett's class.*

The main advantage of solar power is that sunlight is free; however, the methods used to convert sunlight into energy are not. A disadvantage of solar electrical panels is that the panels are expensive and they effectively use only 20 percent of the sun's energy. On the other hand, solar heaters effectively use 70 percent of the sun's energy and the materials required to make a solar heater are much less. As can be seen from Ms. Brett's 6th grade class, a solar heater/cooker can be made from common items found in most homes.

**Problem:** How can the potato or the white rice cook inside the (medium) bottle?

**Hypothesis:** I think the sun will be reflected to the aluminum foil and then the clear glass, then the sun's reflection will transfer to the (medium) bottle. And it could become an oven. By 20 to 25 minutes the potato or the white rice will be cooked.

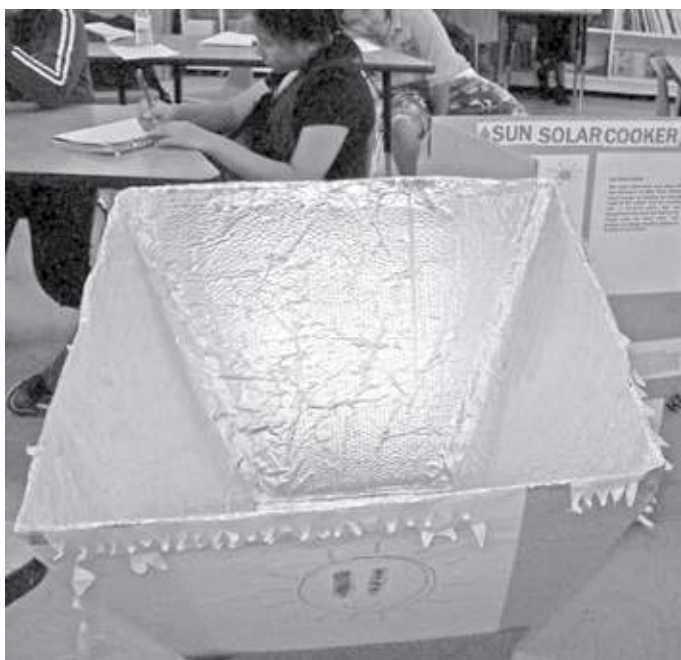
### Procedure

Main box with aluminum foil  
Measure the box and layout  
Make the exact measurement of the box and start cutting  
Cut the carton to the square measurement  
Insert the carton to the main box  
Insert the carton to the main box by down right position, and parallel installations  
Glue aluminum foil to



This chart explains the principles and the process in making the sun solar cooker.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The solar cooker on display.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the carton

Reflector carton with aluminum foil

Glue the aluminum foil to the reflector carton

Install wood base with paint

### Materials

Carton box 11 1/2" X 12"  
Aluminum foil 37.5 sq. ft.  
Construction paper  
Clear glass 11 1/2" X 11"  
X 1/2" X 1/8"  
Bottle (medium)  
Metal stud 11 1/2" X 6" X 1/6"  
Small piece of cloth  
Small hook  
Knife, cutter, and scissors

See <http://solarcooking.org/kerr.htm#INTRODUCTION> for information used for this project.

### Solar cooker

The sun's short-wave rays cross the two aluminum or glass walls without losing energy. In touching the internal walls of the cooker that are covered with a non-toxic paint, they are transformed into heat rays that can no longer cross the glass walls. This creates and energy trap that allows us to cook or heat meals.

Figure 8 is a diagram containing three solar ovens, each with a reflector at a different angle. I will define the "reflector angle" as the smallest angle the reflector makes with the plane of the oven window while the reflector surface is exposed to the sun.

Oven A has a reflector angle of 90 degrees. At this angle, the reflector surface does not engage the sun, so it cannot increase the sunlight falling on the box-oven window. It is clear that

an angle greater than 90 degrees will cause the reflector to shade the window, obviously not what we want.

Oven C has a reflector angle of 45 degrees; none of the sunlight reaches the oven window because all of the light is reflected parallel to the surface of the window. Also, as the angle becomes smaller than 45 degrees the sunlight is increasingly reflected back toward the sun itself instead of through the window. We don't want that either.

So, the best angle must be between 45 and 90 degrees. Oven B has a reflector angle of about 60 degrees.

**Conclusion:** This project proves that solar energy can generate power that will help us conserve consumption of fuel or gas.



Picture shows the inside of a solar cooker/heater.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## EPA ranks NMI among lowest in nation for toxic releases

**HONOLULU**—Three facilities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a total of 6,448 pounds of toxic chemicals released into the air, land and water in 2007, according to new data released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Overall, CNMI ranks among the lowest, 55 out of 56 states and territories, in total chemical releases.

In relation to data from the previous year, total releases have decreased about 5 percent.

"The Toxic Release Inventory program arms communities with powerful information," said Laura Yoshii, acting EPA administrator for the Pacific Southwest region. "The inventory is a tremendous tool to help protect public health and the environment. Safe communities depend on well-informed citizens."

### CNMI facilities reporting 2007 release information to TRI:

- Hawaiian Rock Products Saipan
- Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc./Saipan Aviation Terminal
- Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc./Saipan Terminal

### Data from 2007 in CNMI shows:

■ CNMI companies did not report any releases to the water or to underground injection, and land releases increased less than one pound.

■ Air Releases decreased 11 percent – by 576 pounds.

■ Shell Marianas did not report to TRI this year, causing a decrease in releases.

■ The data comes from the EPA's Toxics Release Inventory, commonly referred to as TRI. It's one of EPA's largest publicly available databases, arming communities with valuable information on more than 650 toxic chemicals released by various industries. The chemical information in the inventory is calculated by industrial facilities and reported to the EPA, as required by law.

■ Total releases include toxic chemicals discharged by facilities to air, water, land, and underground, and the amount transferred off-site for disposal. Regulatory controls apply to many of the reported releases. Reporting facilities must comply with environmental standards set by local, state and federal agencies.

■ Annual Toxic Release Inventory reporting began in 1987. The inventory provides

information on annual toxic chemical releases reported by certain industrial and federal facilities. The TRI does not include data on toxic emissions from cars and trucks, nor from the majority of non-industrial sources, such as agriculture. In 2000, it expanded to include persistent bioaccumulative and toxic chemicals, or PBTs, at ranges from 0.1 grams to 100 pounds. PBT pollutants are toxic chemicals that remain in the environment and food chain, posing risks to human health and ecosystems

### Some findings of interest at the national level:

■ There was a 5 percent decrease in total disposal or other releases into the environment nationwide from 2006 to 2007.

■ PBTs make up 12 percent of total releases and have increased by 1 percentage point from 2006-2007. Lead drives overall PBT statistics with 98 percent of total releases for 2007. Lead showed a less than 1 percent increase (3.5 million pounds) from 2006-2007.

■ Mercury releases increased by 38 percent (1.9 million pounds).

■ On-site land releases are down 6 percent (113 million pounds) since 2006. (EPA)

## EPA launches video/photo project in celebration of Earth Month

In anticipation of Earth Day, the Environmental Protection Agency launched yesterday an interactive video and photo project asking the public to share the ways they enjoy and protect their environment.

These projects are part of EPA's multi-event celebration of Earth Month and of EPA's 39 year history—which will highlight the agency's renewed commitment to protecting human health and the environment.

The EPA is asking filmmakers and photographers around the world to submit their own videos and photos documenting what steps they take to protect the water they drink, the air they breathe and the overall environmental health of their communities.

Participants can submit their video entries to the EPA's Earth Day Video Proj-

ect group on YouTube. Photo entries should be submitted via Flickr.

Categories in the video project are:

- Reducing your carbon footprint
- Conserving and protecting water
- Protecting the

### ON THE NET

To participate in the Earth Day Photo project:  
<http://www.epa.gov/earthday/photoproject/>  
To participate in the Earth Day Video project:  
<http://www.epa.gov/earthday/video-project/>

environment  
■ Reduce, reuse, recycle  
Categories in the photo project are:

- People and the environment
- The beauty of nature
- Wildlife

EPA officials will select videos and photos to feature on the website throughout April. The agency will accept videos and photos from today through the end of April. (EPA)



# Life & Style

## Wearry travelers catch their breath on coast of Kerala

We had been to the Taj Mahal. We had traipsed through the grand palaces of the Rajput kings. We had survived nerve-racking days on twisty Himalayan roads with a driver who would chat on a cellphone while navigating dangerous curves at high speeds. My children and I had briefly succumbed to high fevers in Jaipur. And we had gorged on rich North Indian food.

It was time to step into a slower lane and begin to recuperate. It was time to go to South India.

When my wife, Cindy, and I began planning a three-week family trip to India, South India was not really on our radar screen. But then Rama Lakshmi, one of *The Washington Post's* correspondents in New Delhi, made an emphatic point: We would not have a complete picture of the true India unless we made it to the south.

It turned out to be great advice. When we arrived in Kerala, one of the South India states, a four-hour flight from Delhi, we immediately felt we had traveled to a different country. The pace was more leisurely, the food was completely different and the people were friendlier. The language, the clothes (men more routinely in sarong-like dhotis, women in natural-color saris), the lush landscape: Nothing was the same. It was a real revelation, and it gave our family a new boost of enthusiasm to tackle the last week of a sometimes-arduous adventure.

South India somehow gets lost in the overall concept of "India" as many visiting Americans make a beeline to Delhi, to the towering Moghul masterpieces and the harsh



Kathakali dancers in India's Kerala state. The highly stylized dances are based on tales on Hindu epics.

THE WASHINGTON POST

beauty of the Rajasthan desert, all in the north. The dishes served in Indian restaurants in the United States are mostly North Indian: the ever-present tandoori ovens and food cooked in ghee, or clarified butter. South India cuisine, by contrast, is not nearly as filling and uses copious amounts of coconut milk, making it much closer in taste and appearance to Southeast Asian cooking, such as Thai and Malaysian curries.

Of course, South India itself is made up of many

parts. But we decided to focus on Kerala, a coastal state that stretches almost to the southwestern tip of the country, rich in colonial tradition and home to a unique dance form known as kathakali.

Terrorism in India is an issue: Bombs went off in various cities almost every day during our first week in India and, of course, the Mumbai attack last December is fresh in people's minds. But as far as I can tell, there has never been a terrorist incident in Kerala. In fact, Kerala is so peaceful that it was major news in India when some youths who had been born in Kerala were rounded up in a plot in

Kashmir, 2,000 miles away.

Kerala is famous for its backwaters, a massive network of meandering, palm-tree-fretted canals that intersect rice fields and farms, fed by the 60-mile-long Vembanad Lake, one of India's largest. The backwaters are the setting for the haunting international bestseller "The God of Small Things," by Arundhati Roy.

We decided to spend four days in the backwaters area and then three days in the old colonial city of Kochi (also known as Cochin). I especially was excited about the prospect of spending a night on a converted rice barge navigating the backwaters under a brilliant, star-studded sky.

Our driver, Maxi, meets us at the airport with an enormously cheerful face. He shakes his head from side to side when he agrees with us, an Indian habit. He drives carefully and

slowly—even, to our shock, stopping the car on the side of the road to answer his cellphone. Once we were running late and he apologetically asked if he could speed up. "Drive like a Northerner," I declared, earning a huge laugh—and a modestly higher speed.

Kerala, which has long been controlled by the Indian Communist party, has India's highest literacy rate (more than 90 percent) and is one of its wealthiest states. It has a booming tourist trade, particularly with Europeans who flock to the swank resorts on the backwaters lakes and revel in Kerala's famed ayurvedic massage treatments, which involve heated oils and steam baths.

Not wanting to be trapped in a resort, we have chosen not to reside on the lake and instead head to the coastal town of Alappuzha (also known as Alleppey), which is lined with leafy canals. Our lodging is a beach hotel on the Arabian Sea, the Raheem Residency, crafted out of a colonial villa dating to 1868.

Both of the main experiences planned for this portion of our trip involve water: local boat races (powered by competing local teams) and time spent aboard a boat of our own.

We have timed our visit for a once-a-year spectacular, the Nehru Trophy Boat Race, which combines a fiercely competitive race with an Indian carnival atmosphere. On the second Saturday of August, races are held across the lake involving massive wooden "snake boats" that are at least 150 feet long and hold more than 100 helmsmen and oarsmen. Some smaller longboats hold races, but none has fewer than 40 rowers, making each race a wild, water-splashed run to the finish line.

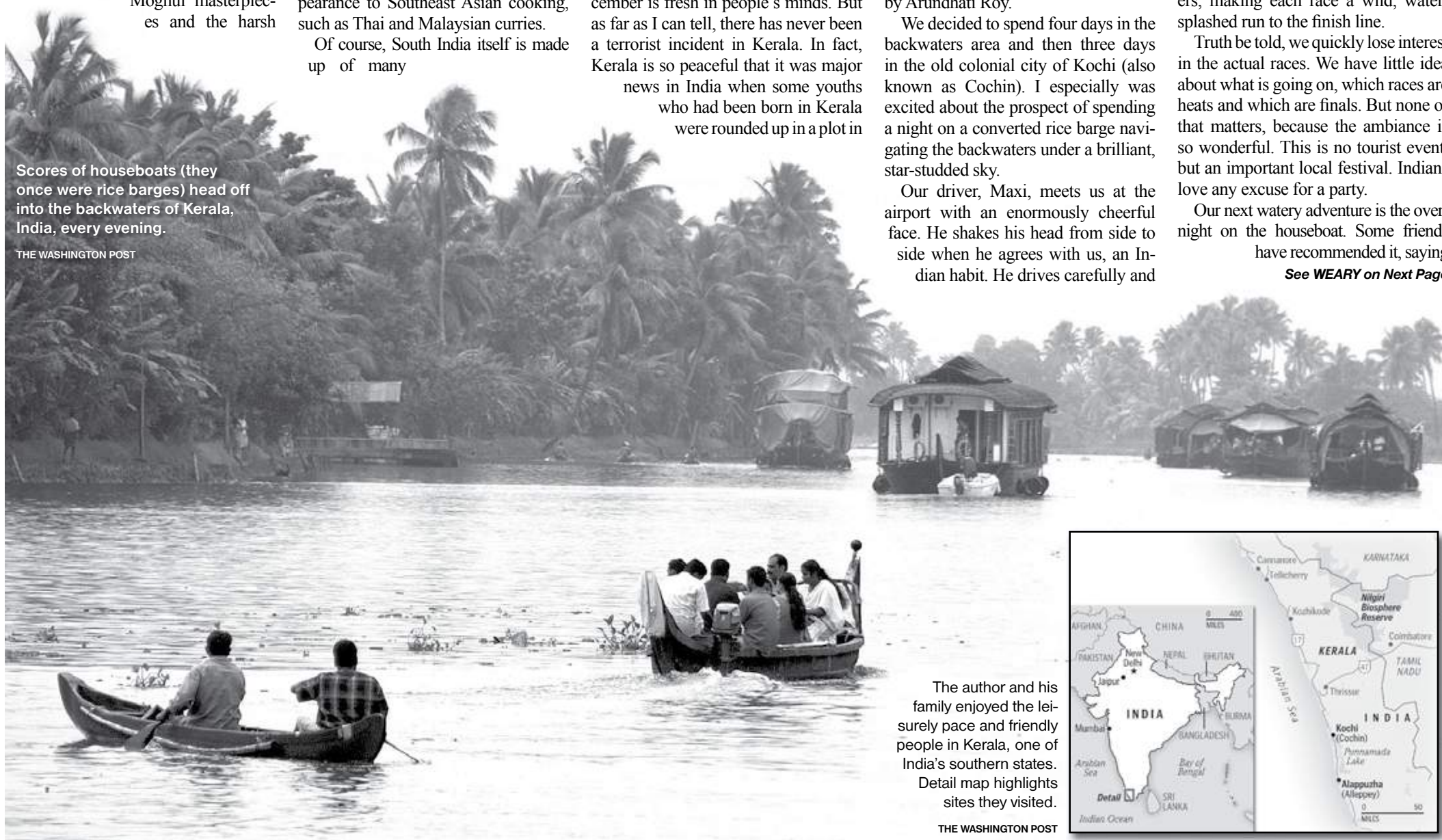
Truth be told, we quickly lose interest in the actual races. We have little idea about what is going on, which races are heats and which are finals. But none of that matters, because the ambiance is so wonderful. This is no tourist event, but an important local festival. Indians love any excuse for a party.

Our next watery adventure is the overnight on the houseboat. Some friends have recommended it, saying

See WEARY on Next Page

Scores of houseboats (they once were rice barges) head off into the backwaters of Kerala, India, every evening.

THE WASHINGTON POST



The author and his family enjoyed the leisurely pace and friendly people in Kerala, one of India's southern states. Detail map highlights sites they visited.

THE WASHINGTON POST





**WEARY**

From Page 18

the boats are very comfortable and the experience quite romantic. It certainly is a booming business, with all of the old rice barges now turned into houseboats, scores of them heading off into the backwaters every evening.

But we learn the hard way that not all boats are created equal. Our travel agent in New Delhi had contracted with a sub-agent in Kerala for the boat, and somehow we end up with a fully crewed four-bedroom boat that is neither clean nor comfortable. It's an exceedingly quiet night, but none of us sleeps a wink. The noisy air conditioning barely functions, the beds are uncomfortable, and the sheets and towels are covered with dust;

being bathed by their mothers, schoolchildren coming home in canoes in drenching rain, young couples paddling home with their daily purchases. But unless you are sure the boat you hire will be clean and comfortable, I would make this a day trip.

(Houseboat rentals are fairly expensive—\$400 a night for a two-bedroom boat—and we complained rather strenuously to our agent. She finally agreed to refund half the cost and sent us an e-mail saying the money had been wired to our bank. But it never arrived.)

By the time our houseboat makes it back to town the next day, it's pouring rain. Our sleep-deprived family is thrilled to see Maxi and his grand smile, and soon we are off to Kochi, where overlapping Dutch, Portuguese, Jewish and British cultures have



THE WASHINGTON POST

A performer is readied for a kathakali dance, which depicts highly stylized tales from great Hindu epics, in Kerala, India.

early so you can watch the actors put on their makeup and then their costumes. It is a magical transformation, as various shades of green, blue and red makeup, combined with spectacular masks made of rice paper, turn the actors into what appear to be life-size puppets. The version we see includes a brief demonstration and explanation in English of the symbolic eye-roll-

ing and sounds associated with the performance. Frankly, it still doesn't make much sense when we see the play, but it is spectacular to watch nonetheless.

After seven relaxing days, it's time to return to the sprawling and chaotic city of New Delhi. As soon as we land, we call Rama at The Post's bureau and ask, "Where can we find a South Indian restaurant?"



THE WASHINGTON POST

"Snake boats," each with a crew of more than 100, compete for the Nehru Trophy every year in southern India.

we all feel—or imagine—bugs crawling over us.

Overall, the overnight backwaters experience isn't worth the hassle of the dirty boat. The ebb and flow of river life are interesting: screaming babies

produced a gem of a town.

The historic district of Kochi, at the tip of a peninsula, is known as Fort Cochin, and many of the key sights are within walking distance. This is a welcome change from most sprawling Indian cit-

ies, where a walk around town is a virtual impossibility. The main shopping area is in another, more modern city, Ernakulam, about a half-hour's drive away, but it's a joy to simply wander in the historic district.

Our agent makes up for the houseboat by recommending that we stay in a lovely hotel, Brunton Boatyard, some 20 luxury rooms set on the site of an 18th-century boatyard. It's a grand place, and Cindy and I take a cooking class that helps unlock some of the secrets of South India cuisine.

The remnants of the once-thriving Jewish community here can be found in "Jew Town," where a 16th-century synagogue stands amid a welter of antiques dealers and Kashmiri shopkeepers. In keeping with the jumbled culture of Kochi, the interior of the temple is lined with 18th-century blue and white tiles from Canton depicting a mandarin's love affair, while the chandeliers are from Belgium.

The highlight of our stay in Kochi is attending an evening performance of kathakali. In "The God of Small Things," author Roy describes how the dance-drama has been debased for the tourists. Perhaps that is true. But I find the experience quite evocative even though we see a shortened version; true kathakali can last all night.

Kathakali depicts highly stylized tales from the great Hindu epics such as "Ramayana." You need to arrive a couple of hours



THE WASHINGTON POST

The carnival atmosphere surrounding the annual "snake boat" competition for the Nehru Trophy prompts some fans to dance on the fencing above the water, singing victory songs and tossing garlands.

**DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT****†Calistro Kani Norita**

Lovingly known as 'Cal' or 'Calikano'

was called to his eternal rest on March 9, 2009 at the age of 20.

**He will be lovingly missed by his:**

**Mother:** Fabiana S. Kani

**Father:** Antonio S. Norita

**Siblings and In-laws:**

Clifford K. Norita & Betsy Castro (*Fabianne, Clifton, Cliana, Fabio, Carla*)

Clara K. Norita

Cora K. Norita & Benigno Sablan

Christina K. Norita & Jonathan C. Camacho

Catrina K. Norita

**Baptism Godparents:** Gus L Taitano & Hilaria Cango

**Confirmation Godparents:** Jeff & Marlena Cabrera

**Grandmother:** Estafania Sablan Norita

**He now joins his:**

**Maternal Grandparents:** Pedro Iguel Kani

Antonia S. Kani

**Paternal Grandparent:** Jose Taman Norita

**Uncle:** Nicholas Pua Kani

**Auntie:** Belinda Sablan Norita

**Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:30 p.m. at his grandparents house in Tanapag.**

**On March 27, 2009 at 7:00 a.m. his**

**remains will be escorted from**

**C.H.C. to his (grandparents)**

**family residence in Tanapag for**

**viewing and last respects. Mass**

**of Christian Burial will be**

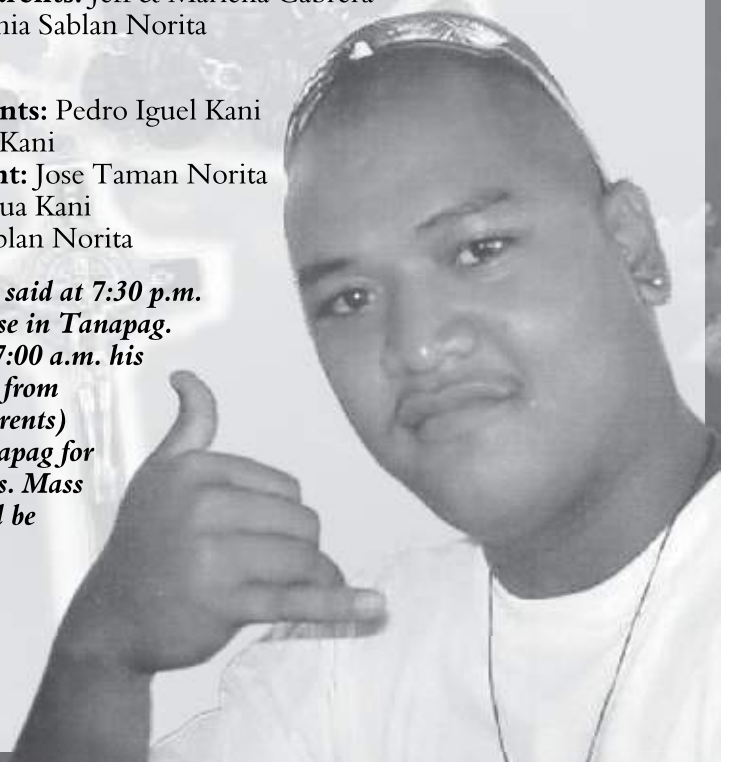
**celebrated at 2:00 p.m.**

**followed by interment**

**service at Tanapag**

**Cemetery.**

**THE FAMILY**





# Threat detailed in dispute over Neverland trove

**NEW YORK (AP)**—When troubled pop king Michael Jackson is involved, even a yard sale can become an epic struggle.

A Hollywood auction house hired by Jackson to sell off the contents of his shuttered Neverland Ranch said it is pressing ahead with plans to put some 2,000 items on the block in April, despite the pop legend's surprise bid this month to halt the sale.

Some of the glitziest items will be on display to the public at the Hard Rock Cafe in Times Square this week, including one of Jackson's signature black fedoras, two of his MTV Video Music Awards, costumes he wore on tour in the 1980s and several crystal-encrusted gloves.

Jackson filed a lawsuit in early March, claiming that he had never given permission for the sale of many "priceless and irreplaceable" items.

The auction house, Julien's Auctions, fired back in court papers, saying that Jackson's representatives had been deeply and enthusiastically involved in the sale for many months, until a sudden reversal last month.

The company's president, Darren Julien, said in a sworn statement filed with a Los Angeles court that the singer's representatives even tried to intimidate him into postponing the sale.

During a Feb. 9 meeting at a fast-food restaurant in Los Ange-



Michael Jackson's White Crystal Glove and Moonwalker belt are on display at the Hard Rock Cafe, Tuesday, March 24, 2009 in New York's Times Square.

AP

les, he said, one of Jackson's employees warned that the auctioneers would be in danger "from Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam," if they didn't call it off.

"He told us that Dr. Tohme and Michael Jackson wanted to give the message to us 'that our lives are at stake and there will be bloodshed,'" Julien said, referring to Jackson business manager, Tohme Tohme.

Alan Gutman, a lawyer Jackson's company MJJ Productions, said Julien was "desperate to divert attention from his own misconduct" and accused him of making "scurrilous attacks."

"Unfortunately, in the course

of this case, Mr. Julien has not felt constrained by the truth while trying to capture the spotlight for the auction or himself with sensationalistic and fictionalized references to supposed threats that never occurred or baseless speculation about potential sales of Neverland," Gutman told The Associated Press.

He said the consignment agreement in which Jackson purportedly gave up his right to take items back before the auction was also illegal and unenforceable under California law.

Tohme did not immediately respond to a phone message.

Julien said he didn't believe

the threat, and the two sides have since agreed to let some of Jackson's property continue to travel on a publicity tour in advance of an April 3 court hearing. The auction is scheduled for April 21.

A similar preview of the items in Ireland earlier this month drew thousands of fans, and the auctioneers expect thousands more at a larger exhibition and preview in Los Angeles in a few weeks.

Julien estimated that the sale could bring in \$10 million to \$20 million—money that Jackson could desperately use. He reportedly has been experiencing financial problems for several

years, and has not performed a major concert since 2001—four years before his acquittal on child molestation charges. He recently announced a series of concerts in London that sold out in hours.

Jackson will get any profits from the sale, minus the auction house commissions.

In court filings, Julien's Auctions said it was first contacted by Jackson's representatives about auctioning off Neverland's trove of memorabilia last July.

Darren Julien said he found the 2,500-acre property and its zoo and amusement park rides "in shambles," but jumped at the chance to salvage decades worth of art, clothing and furniture, as well as stage props and several of Jackson's awards.

He said the items were removed over several months under the supervision of Jackson's agents, and that the singer's employees were also involved in drafting press releases, approving auction catalog covers and negotiating a deal to give 5 percent of the proceeds to charity.

"It's upsetting to me," Julien said of the lawsuit.

But he said he was still intent on giving Jackson, his client, a "first-class auction."

"There will never be another artist or celebrity like Michael Jackson," Julien said. "He has the most dedicated fans of anyone we have ever worked with."



AP

In this March 28, 2008, file photo, Ethan Coen stands for a photo outside the Three Lives & Company bookstore in New York.

## Coen returns to off-Broadway with 'Offices'

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Ethan Coen is going off-Broadway again.

The Academy Award-winning filmmaker is returning to the Atlantic Theater Company with "Offices," a new collection of one-act plays.

Coen scored a success last season at the Atlantic with "Almost an Evening," another trio of one acts. "It was a good experience, so I'm going to try and repeat it," the filmmaker said in an interview.

"Offices" will open May 7 with preview performances beginning April 15. The 11-person cast will include F. Murray Abraham, John Bedford Lloyd and Mary McCann. The director is Neil Pepe, artistic head of the Atlantic.

Coen said the plays are comedies, but added, with a laugh, "The audience will be the judge of that." They all take place in offices or places of business and involve white-collar workers, he said, and were written before last fall's economic downturn.

"I worked in an office a long time ago," the playwright explained. "My first job out of college—in fact my only job out of college—was working as an office temp, just to do typing basically."

The first play in "Offices" is called "Peer Review."

"And you can sort of gather from the title some of what it deals with, Pepe said.

"Homeland Security," the second play, deals with governmental bureaucracy, while the third is called "Struggle Session."

"The plays have Ethan's incredibly distinct and funny and slightly dark voice," said Pepe, who directed "Speed-the-Plow" on Broadway this season. "And I also find them to be quite theatrical. It's been a great collaborative process, the beginning of it being last year. We had a great time. And I am excited to get back into it again."

## First lady tells students to aim their goals high

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—First lady Michelle Obama promoted the value of a college education and hard work Thursday, telling high school students that the people who doubted her when she was younger only encouraged her to aim higher.

"That never stopped me. That always made me push harder," she said.

Mrs. Obama's appearance at Anacostia High School was part of a day in which she put an array of talented, accomplished women in front of area high school students as an example of the types of success they, too, can achieve if they are willing to work hard for it.

The group included Grammy Award-winning singers Alicia Keys and Sheryl Crow, actresses and sisters Debbie Allen and Phylicia Rashad, actress Fran Drescher, Olympic gymnast Dominique Dawes, WNBA star Lisa Leslie Lockwood and Mae Jemison, the first black woman to travel into space. Also participating were Gen. Ann Dunwoody, the first woman to achieve the four-star rank; actresses Alfre Woodard, Kerry Washington and Tracee Ellis Ross; and Debra Lee, president and CEO of the parent company of the BET cable network.

The first lady invited that group back to a White House

dinner with local high school students as part of the her celebration of March as Women's History Month.

"You guys are future leaders of this nation," Mrs. Obama told her guests in the East Room. "And we're counting on you. In so many ways, we're counting on you. So the question is: Are you ready?"

She told the young women they must respect themselves and each other, and that each of them is special and could learn from the female leaders. She was joined by her mother, Marian Robinson, and her two daughters who "never want to do anything with me," Obama joked.

Her message was simple: "Go for it. Don't hesitate. Don't act in fear. Just go for it."

During her earlier visit to Anacostia, one of the city's lowest-performing schools, 13 students chosen by their teachers asked Mrs. Obama whether her life is still normal, why daughters Malia and Sasha didn't come, what does the family do for fun, and whether she does her own makeup and picks out what she wears. They also asked about her transition from high school to college, and how she got to be the first lady.

Life is still normal, despite living in the White House with Secret Service agents. Her daughters were at school.

*First Death Anniversary*

We, the family of our late beloved

# Basilisa Magofna Lieto

humbly invite our family, relatives, and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first death anniversary of our beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother passage to eternal life.


Nightly rosary will be said at 7:30 p.m. beginning March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Rosa Lieto Blas in Tanapag.

On the final day, Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009, anniversary mass will be celebrated at 6:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church. Final rosary will be said at 6:30 p.m. at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Rosa Lieto Blas residence.

Appreciation dinner will immediately followed.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

The Family





# Efron drops out of 'Footloose' remake

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Zac Efron has dropped out of his role in a remake of "Footloose."

Paramount Pictures says the "High School Musical" heartthrob is no longer attached to the upcoming film. The studio did not give a reason in its Tuesday

statement, but said it remains committed to director Kenny Ortega and producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron.

Efron soared to stardom in the "High School Musical" franchise as music-loving jock Troy. The 21-year-old actor sang and danced in the 2007 movie musical "Hairspray," and was primed to bust some moves in the update of the 1984 classic "Footloose."

Efron stars as a middle-aged guy who wakes up as his teenaged self in "17 Again," slated for release April 17.

US actor Zac Efron, seen, during a photocall for the french premiere of the movie "17 Again," in Paris, Tuesday, March 24, 2009. AP



## Jennifer Hudson slated to sing on 'American Idol'

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Jennifer Hudson is returning to "American Idol"—for one night only.

The Grammy- and Oscar-winning actress, singer and "Idol" alum is scheduled to tape a performance in front of the studio audience on Wednesday after the live broadcast has ended, says



**Hudson**

a person close to the show who did not want his or her name used because the person was not authorized to speak to reporters.

Hudson's appearance will air on an upcoming segment, the person says. It will be the 26-year-

old superstar's first time as a performer on the stage that made her famous since the slayings last year in Chicago of her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew.

Hudson will likely sing a song from her self-titled debut CD, which won the Grammy for best R&B album in February. She was a finalist on the third season of "American Idol."

## New Al Gore book coming this fall

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Nobel laureate's Al Gore's follow-up to his best-selling "An Inconvenient Truth," originally planned for last spring, is coming out this fall with a new title.



**Gore**

Publisher Rodale Books announced Tuesday that the former vice president's book, "Our Choice," will be released in November, printed on 100 percent recycled paper. The book, which proposes solutions to the global warming crisis documented in "Inconvenient Truth," was called "The Path to Survival" when first announced two years ago.

"An Inconvenient Truth" was published in 2006 and was a companion book to the Academy Award-winning documentary of the same name.

## Second celebrity cast off 'Dancing With the Stars'

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A high-scoring command performance couldn't keep Denise Richards on "Dancing With the Stars."

The 38-year-old actress was eliminated from the hit ABC show Tuesday.

Richards said after Monday's performance that she "would be shocked" not to

be in the dance off with her partner Maksim Chmerkovskiy—a last chance to improve her judges' scores and remain in the competition.

Despite what the judges said was an improved samba, the couple failed to dominate against fellow low-scoring couple, reality star Holly Madison and Dmitry Chaplin.

## Kanye West takes 'Heartbreak' on the road

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Kanye West credits his dad for his risk-taking attitude.

"I like the challenge of having to win people over with a new concept," West said in a recent interview. "My father (Ray West) was a salesman. And I saw him have to talk people into things and expose people to new ideas all the time. And I like that. What's the point if you're not presenting something new to people, that people might not be ready for, and exposing people to new ideas?"

Expect new theatrical ideas when West takes to the road this summer. West will launch a European tour featuring his latest album, "808s & Heartbreak," in July and expects the tour to hit the United States by fall.

Speaking on the set of a recent video shoot for his friend 88-Keys' "Stay Up (Viagra)," West said he was excited to find new ways to blend his songs together.

"Being on stage, it's the glory," West said.

The producer-turned-rapper-turned-singer has consulted with many of the same people who helped inspire staging for his last set of shows, the "Glow in the Dark Tour." They include filmmaker Spike Jonze, who directed West's upcoming "See You In My Nightmares" video, and The Jim Henson Company.

West was alone on a colorful, futuristic

tilted stage for nearly the entire performance of his "Glow" tour last year. It came after West's mother Donda died in November 2007 and he had broken up with his fiancée, events that put him in the mood for a less-than-celebratory hip-hop concert.

"I get bored with stuff," West said in a recent interview. "The last one was done because I didn't feel like doing a rap show, because of all I was going through in my life. All I felt like was playing with 'Star Wars' (toys) and being Luke Skywalker. So I figured you know, 'I'll do a rap show if I can just be like Luke Skywalker every night.' And so I just wrote my own sci-fi and played in it."

The blue period that inspired that tour also set the stage for "808s & Heartbreak." It features West using the Auto-Tune technology popularized by T-Pain to sing in a hollow, distant voice about loss and sorrow.

He says he considers "808s" as much a fashion project as those \$400-plus Louis Vuitton sneakers he recently crafted.

"The subject matter was real life. The medium was melody," West said. "And the format was very similar to the way people would organize a fashion show, moreso than an album. And I felt like this was my season. ... I deliver my music more as a designer than a producer now."

## Family swimming in baby gifts should invest in child's future

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I would like to offer a suggestion to "Tired Mom in the City" (Jan. 17), whose baby's eight grandparents have overloaded the family with unneeded and redundant gifts. That mother should harness the generosity of those loving grandparents.

"Tired Mom" and her husband should set up a 529 college savings plan for their baby girl if they haven't already done so. It's a wonderful program that helps parents, family members and friends to save toward a child's college education. Those loving and obviously generous grandparents can contribute to the fund.

By contributing to their granddaughter's 529 fund, the grandparents will be giving a lifelong gift rather than an item that will be discarded or outgrown. They will be providing a college education for the child, and the parents will not be burdened by huge loans.

**MOM OF TWO IN ROCHESTER, N.Y.**

**DEAR MOM OF TWO:** Thank you for an excellent suggestion. Readers who are interested in setting up a 529 plan should consult their financial adviser or bank officer. **Read on:**

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I had the same problem with four sets of grandparents. We handled the duplication of gifts by having the grandparents keep them in THEIR homes so when it was their turn to baby-sit, or we visited them, they would have all the necessities at hand. "Tired Mom" might consider suggesting something similar.

**L.M. IN GREENWOOD, MO.**

**DEAR ABBY:** My children received many gifts, but what they remember the most is the time they spent with their grandparents. Having a book read to them, visiting the aquarium, being pushed in a stroller for a walk around town and hearing the birds and smelling the flowers—even the loving greeting one grandmother gave my little girls at the door when they visited—these, not material things, were the "gifts" that counted the most.

**NO LONGER A TIRED MOM**

**DEAR ABBY:** I set up an education account for each of my nine grandchildren. There is no better gift than a solid education that will enable my grandchildren to provide for themselves when they are grown.

My grandfather gave me stock when I was a child. I didn't appreciate it at the time, but the dividends from that stock paid for summer camp, college tuition and, eventually, a down payment on a house. What better way to establish your grandchildren and help them to achieve a better life?

**NANA OF NINE IN KENTUCKY**

**DEAR ABBY:** My grandparents were generous, too. What they lavished me with was time and attention. At Christmas and on birthdays, I received a small gift. But the really great gift—which I didn't totally understand when I was young—was a savings bond in my name. Those bonds added up over the years and helped to fund my college education.

I am 46 now. I remember how much they loved me and how concerned they were about my future. I still have some of the bonds my grandparents gave me tucked away for a rainy day. My husband and I are now continuing the tradition with our granddaughters.

**KELLY IN DECATUR, ILL.**

■■■

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

■■■

*To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



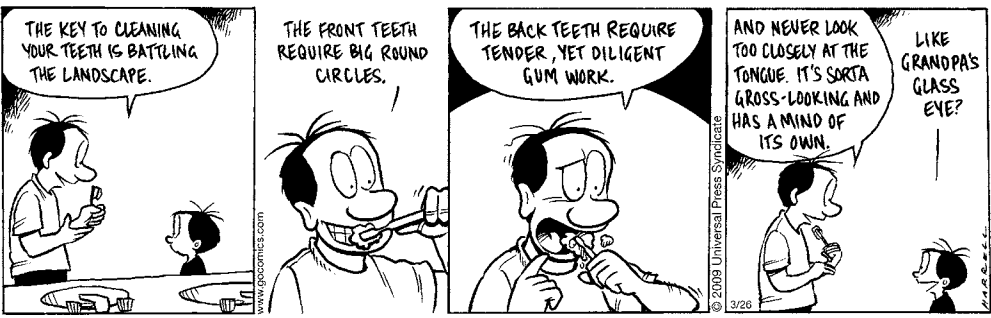
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



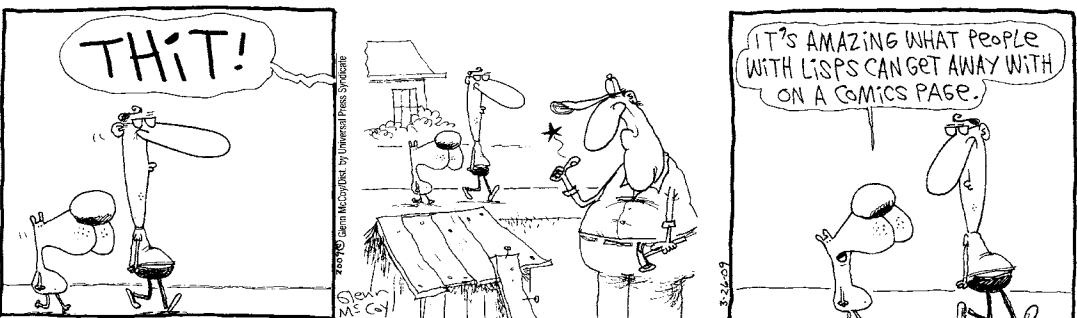
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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**Solution time: 25 mins.**

HOES MOI TREK  
ASTI ARO HORN  
SHAMROCK ACNE  
PALIN YANKEE  
ROBE OREO ELM  
EVA FROCK LEA  
DAN LILT PLOP  
KEA LOCI  
ABRUPT ASHES  
POOR ROLL CALL  
SILO IRE ELSE  
ELLS OBI SLAW

Yesterday's answer 3-26

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Keira Knightley, 24; Kenny Chesney, 41; Curtis Sliwa, 55; Martin Short, 59

**Happy Birthday:** It's a year of haste, but not waste. Utilize every moment to accomplish your goals. You will have the drive, originality and innocence to go where others may question or fear. You are the pioneer and must put your skills to the test. Your numbers are 1, 5, 8, 16, 22, 34, 41

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** An invitation to join a group or organization you believe in will help you discover your true calling. You have lots to offer and will be able to move into a leadership position if you step up and show your skills. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Taking on too much will give the impression that you are not capable of large-scale tasks. Gauge your time and remain patient if you want to come across as being professional. Don't let someone else's uncertainty unnerve you. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Use your talents to make reforms. By showing where you stand on issues, you can take a position of leadership, allowing you greater focus. Taking on a new project may seem daunting but, once you get started, it will be easy for you to follow through. \*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Be careful not to give out too much information. Someone will take advantage of you and twist your words in order to undermine what you are trying to accomplish. Stay alert and do not give in to bribes or questionable behavior. \*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Rediscover some of the goals you set a long time ago. You have a lot to share as well as learn and a whole new attitude regarding your philosophy of life will develop. It's time to make a life adjustment. \*\*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Don't let anyone push you into an uncomfortable financial situation. Be careful when it comes to money and handouts. Children, friends, lovers and even older relatives can cost you if you don't use a firm hand and offer suggestions instead of cash. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You can drum up some excitement and get everyone on your team with a little enthusiastic talk and a few examples of what you plan to do. Love is looking very hot and socializing can result in an encounter that you won't want to miss. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Don't believe everything you hear. You will have to be careful not to give in to emotional rants at home or someone who is trying to get you to take on his or her responsibilities. Focus on what's important to you. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Some changes at home will add comfort and emotional well-being. Do not let someone take over or make changes you don't like. Be creative in the way you deal with others if you want to avoid arguments. \*\*\*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Keep a lid on whatever you feel like saying. You are likely to strike a dis-

EUGENIA LAST  
THE LAST WORD  
IN ASTROLOGY

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ruptive chord if you are too vocal or pushy. Do what you need to do quietly to avoid being criticized. A love relationship may be on shaky ground. \*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You can make some interesting professional changes that will turn your cash flow into a positive. Put on the pressure in order to get the deal you want. With a little finagling, an old goal can be achieved. \*\*\*\*\*

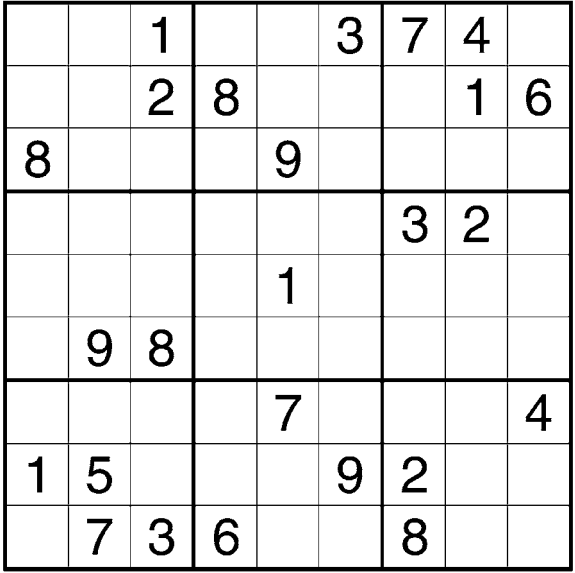
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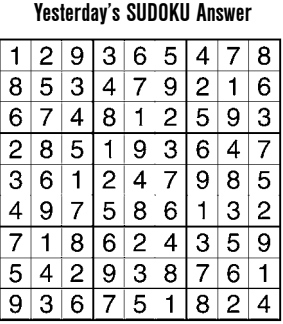
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/25

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**MORNING MADNESS** Solution: 4 letters



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Ahead, Alarm, Backpacks, Bath, Books, Breakfast, Busy, Cars, Checklist, Chores, Day care, Deadlines, Drive, Duties, Find, Frantic, Learn, Life, Lists, Lunches, Manage, Meetings, Mondays, Organize, Prepare, Race, Reminders, Responsibility, Routine, Rush, Schedule, School, Shower, Sleep, Sports, Start, Stress, Sunrise, Teeth, Traffic, Vitamins, Warm-up, Work

**Yesterday's Answer: Balance**  
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Saipan Tribune

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- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

**WHATZIT?**

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

**SHEIK BEE SHAKE**

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# 235- NEWS



# Lakers rest starters in blowout of Thunder

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)**—Kobe Bryant scored 19 points before taking the fourth quarter off, and the Los Angeles Lakers cruised to a 107-89 win against the Oklahoma City Thunder on Tuesday night.

The Lakers led from start to finish for the ninth time this season and closed within one game of idle Cleveland for the best record in the NBA.

Lamar Odom scored 18 points before fouling out and Pau Gasol had 14 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists for Los Angeles. All of the Lakers starters spent the final 8 minutes on the bench, getting some needed rest two games into a seven-game road trip.

Kevin Durant scored 24 points to lead Oklahoma City, which had all five starters reach double figures.

Los Angeles was up by nine within the first five minutes and then closed out the first quarter with eight straight points to go up by 17. For a team that hasn't lost this season after leading by 17 or more, the Lakers could feel pretty comfortable by then—if not for their last visit to Oklahoma City.

In that game last month, the Lakers let an 18-point lead get whittled down to one before Bryant came to the rescue by scoring 15 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter of a 107-93 win.

This time, Bryant and the rest of the starters could get plenty comfortable as the bench got emptied. Even seldom-used reserves Adam Morrison and Shannon Brown—picked up in a trade last month with Charlotte—got into the game.

Oklahoma City was never closer than 17 in the second half.

Josh Powell had 14 points and Luke Walton 11 to lead the reserves, and Derek Fisher also scored 11.

Jeff Green scored 12 points, Nenad Krstic added 11 and Thabo Sefolosha, Russell Westbrook and Nick Collison



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, center, goes up for a shot between Oklahoma City Thunder's Jeff Green; Thabo Sefolosha, of Switzerland; and Nenad Krstic, of Serbia, in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, March 24, 2009.

each had 10 for Oklahoma City.

The Lakers all but put the game away when they finished the first half on an 11-0 run shortly after Oklahoma City went with an oversized lineup, pushing their lead to 62-38. After Westbrook picked up his third foul, Thunder coach

Scott Brooks went without a point guard and instead had Sefolosha and Durant in the backcourt with forwards Green, Collison and Krstic.

Earl Watson, who had been Oklahoma City's backup point guard, has been benched the last six games.

## Bulls 99, Pistons 91

At Chicago Kirk Hinrich scored 24 points filling in for the injured Derrick Rose, and the Bulls pulled within a game of the seventh-place Pistons in the Eastern Conference.

Tyrus Thomas had 18 points and 12

rebounds, and Joakim Noah scored 15 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as the Bulls earned their fifth win in six games.

Tayshaun Prince and Will Bynum scored 20 each for the Pistons, who clearly miss injured stars Allen Iverson, Rasheed Wallace and Richard Hamilton. Bynum also had nine assists while Antonio McDyess scored 16 for Detroit, which lost five of six.

## Spurs 107, Warriors 106

At San Antonio, Tony Parker scored 30 points and the Spurs finally won a close finish in San Antonio.

Roger Mason scored 24 and sank the go-ahead jumper with 23.8 seconds left as the Spurs dodged a rare three-game skid after last-minute losses against Boston and Houston last week.

Monta Ellis had two chances to win it for Golden State but missed a jumper with 5.9 seconds left, then watched his running 3-pointer as time expired clank off the front of the rim.

Ellis led the Warriors with 27 points and Stephen Jackson had 18.

## Jazz 99, Rockets 86

At Salt Lake City, Ronnie Brewer scored 12 of his 17 points in the second half and Utah ended Houston's four-game winning streak.

The Jazz pulled within one-half game of Denver for the Northwest Division lead and knocked the Rockets back to second in the Southwest.

Deron Williams had 19 points and 12 assists for the Jazz, who blocked a season-high 12 shots to help compensate for a poor night on the boards, getting outrebounded 52-42.

Aaron Brooks scored 20 points and Yao Ming added 14 points and 13 rebounds for the Rockets.

# Lawson plans to play for Tar Heels against Gonzaga



**CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP)**—Ty Lawson is starting to feel better, just in time for North Carolina.

The speedy point guard said his troublesome toe is still achy after returning to the lineup over the weekend, but he plans to play in the Tar Heels' game against Gonzaga on Friday. And coach Roy Williams also sounds optimistic, too, that the Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year will be ready for the NCAA tournament's round of 16.

"It's getting better," Lawson said Tuesday. "I'm walking on it better. Hopefully in a couple of days, it'll be back to 100 percent."

Lawson had missed three straight games with a jammed right big toe before helping the top-seeded Tar Heels (30-4) rally past LSU in Saturday's second-round game in the South Regional. He experienced some minor swelling in the toe afterward, but nothing like what followed the regular-season finale against Duke that forced him to the sideline.

He participated in the team's shoot-around Monday and expected to go through some drills during practice this week. But the team has been cautious, keeping him out of practice for almost two weeks, in addition to missing both of the Tar Heels' ACC tournament games and their NCAA opener against Radford.

Williams said the injury will linger.

"It's here," he said. "It's going to be here. It's not going to go away. It's going to hurt the whole rest of the season until he can take that time off."

Lawson injured the toe in practice two days before the Duke game and needed a painkilling shot beforehand. He nearly had a triple-double in 36 minutes in the win, but the toe swelled unexpectedly afterward. It turned out Lawson—on advice from his father—might have exacerbated the problem when he soaked his foot that night in hot water and Epsom salt.

These days, Lawson is sticking to a steady regimen of icing his foot in the morning, before practice and after practice. Then, when he's at home, he fills a trash can with ice and water and soaks his foot a few more times in the evening. He's also worn a compression wrap to limit swelling and exercised in a swimming pool.

The injury has been the topic of conversation around Chapel Hill for weeks, creating a hubbub that has grown tiresome for his teammates.

"I get a lot of questions about how does Ty's toe feel?" senior Tyler Hansbrough said. "I'm like, 'It's not my toe. I don't know.' I don't ask him how his toe's doing because I'm sure 100 other people have. I understand other people's curiosity. They want to know if he'll be able to go because of his impact on this team and what he's done this year. Either way, I thought we were a solid team with or without him."

Still, Lawson makes the Tar Heels'

fast-paced offense go—and that was apparent during his return against LSU.

After fans greeted him with a loud roar that drowned out his name during starting lineups, the junior looked rusty and hesitant early on. At one point in the first half, he came out of the game after feeling a pop in his toe, took off his shoe and was in obvious discomfort while a trainer looked at him on the bench.

But he got better as the game wore on, helping the Tar Heels rally from a five-point deficit midway through the second half. He finished with 21 of his 23 points after the break, including a pair of driving baskets during the decisive 11-0 second-half run that looked like the same ol' Lawson.

"I don't think he's going to be 100 percent," Williams said. "But we'll take whatever we can get, especially if it's like that performance Saturday. That's about as good as I've had a point guard play in 21 years as a head coach. I even told him that I was thinking of calling him 'Rambo' instead of 'Dennis the Menace.'"

Lawson said the performance gave him confidence, joking that it proved the toe "wouldn't fall off" as he tried to play at his normal fleet-footed pace. He's also hoping it will answer all the questions about the injury.

"It's just one toe," he said. "I don't think it's that big of a deal. But to everybody else, I guess it is. I'm just trying to get it better. I'm ready for it to be over."

## Cole Hamels tests elbow in minor league game

**CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP)**—Phillies ace Cole Hamels pitched in a minor league game Tuesday, his first start since experiencing elbow tightness last week.

The World Series MVP threw 3 2-3 scoreless innings against Pittsburgh Pirates minor leaguers at Philadelphia's spring training complex. It was his first appearance in a game since receiving an anti-inflammatory shot in his arm last Tuesday.

"It felt good," Hamels said after his first outing since March 15. "I think it was really just trying to establish feeling each pitch, one at a time, in each inning. And that was kind of the big thing—how I'd feel in between innings. And I felt great."

Hamels allowed one hit and one walk while striking out five of his 13 batters. The left-hander threw 35 of 48 pitches for strikes.

"Performance-wise, we thought he threw OK," Phillies general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. said. "It was a pretty positive outing."

Hamels is tentatively scheduled to pitch in a Grapefruit League game Sunday against Boston.

If all goes well, Hamels would pitch again a day or two before opening day, meaning he wouldn't be on the mound when the World Series champions open the season April 5 against Atlanta.

"I haven't officially ruled him out, but I don't think he'll be ready," Phillies pitching coach Rich Dubee said.

"He won't be stretched out. It would be a real long shot. From what I got today, it was a positive step. It was pain-free, or tightness-free, I should say. The velocity was a little better, so those were good things."

Dubee's early projection has Hamels making his first regular-season start in the Phillies' fourth game, April 10 at Colorado. While he would love the honor of an opening-day start, Hamels is content with the alternative of not missing a turn in the rotation.

"I think that's the best because I don't want to miss a start," Hamels said. "If I'm able to jump in line with our four guys and be the fifth guy, the fourth, third, second—I don't care. It's just (about) knowing that after the season starts, we're on that five-track schedule."

"Knowing that I'm going to go out there every five days and my teammates know that I'm going to go and be healthy, that's really all that they can really ask for."

The 25-year-old Hamels was 14-10 with a 3.09 ERA in his third major league season for the Phillies in 2008. In the postseason, he led Philadelphia to its first World Series title since 1980 by going 4-0 with a 1.80 ERA in five starts.

In the regular season and postseason combined, Hamels logged 262 1-3 innings—the most of any pitcher in baseball. It marked the first season of his professional career that Hamels avoided a stint on the disabled list.



# Armstrong will have surgery Wednesday

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Lance Armstrong is planning to ride in the Giro d'Italia in May even though his broken collarbone is a bit more serious than first thought.

"I think the Giro is still very doable," the seven-time Tour de France champion said Tuesday night during a conference call with reporters. "This is definitely a setback, no doubt. It's the biggest setback I've ever had in my cycling career, so it's a new experience for me."

Although initial indications were it was a clean break, the 37-year-old American cyclist said new tests in Austin showed "multiple pieces" of broken bone.

He will have surgery Wednesday, and Austin sports medicine specialist Dr. Douglas Elenz, an orthopedic surgeon, will insert a plate to stabilize the collarbone.

"I think they try to put the puzzle back together," Armstrong said.

Armstrong crashed Monday in the first stage of the Vuelta of Castilla and Leon race in northern Spain. He flew home to Austin on Tuesday and went straight to visit Elenz.

After surgery, Armstrong will take a mandatory 72-hour rest period. Then the surgeon will determine if Armstrong can get on an indoor training bike to resume his workouts.

Although the recovery typically takes four to six weeks, Armstrong hopes his will be faster.

"It's a very common cycling injury,"



Lance Armstrong of the U.S. leaves a hotel with his arm in a sling in Palencia, Spain, Monday March 23, 2009. AP

he said. "You hear of guys who race two weeks later, you hear of guys who race two months later."

The Giro runs from May 9-31. The Tour de France is July 4-26.

Armstrong said he was frustrated the injury happened just as he was getting into top shape. He was among the top 10 riders for much of the race Monday before he crashed about 12 miles from

the end of the stage. Astana team manager Johan Bruyneel said Armstrong hit the ground hard with his head, breaking his helmet.

"I felt like my condition was really

coming to a point where I was going to be able to ride in the front of the races," he said.

But Armstrong insisted it won't change his plans for the Giro or compromise his training for his return to the Tour, where he won seven consecutive titles from 1999-2006.

"I don't think this changes anything for the Tour de France," Bruyneel said earlier Tuesday in Spain. "A broken collarbone in the month of March does not at all compromise the start of the Tour de France or your performance in the Tour de France."

Still, the injury likely will force a shift in strategy for the Giro.

"Being at the start of the Giro is no problem," Bruyneel said. "But he has to have at least a decent level to be in the race and to compete at a certain level. ... Now it's almost clear that he's not going to be able to be a contender but we just have to change our focus and try to do the Giro, if he can get to the start, with another mentality."

Armstrong, diagnosed with testicular cancer that had spread to his lungs and brain in 1996, has said the primary focus of his comeback is to spread his Livestrong message.

Asked if he felt his comeback was doomed when he crashed, Armstrong admitted he was a bit stunned at first.

"Lying in the ditch in that situation, yeah, but I think that's normal. You sort of ask yourself what the hell am I doing here?" Armstrong said.

"But laying in that ditch with a shattered collarbone was a lot better than other health scares I've had."

## Broncos coach reinforces commitment to QB Cutler

DANA POINT, Calif. (AP)—Broncos coach Josh McDaniels says the team is committed to Jay Cutler as Denver's quarterback. Still, he says no options—including trades—are being ruled out. McDaniels spoke with the media for the first time Tuesday since the rift between the new Broncos coach and the Pro Bowl quarterback became public. He reiterated that Cutler is his quarterback and he'll do what he can to improve the relationship.

The relationship became strained when McDaniels failed to inform Cutler about trade talks in which the Broncos showed interest in Matt Cassel. Cassel wound up being traded by New England to Kansas City, and Cutler asked to be traded.

"I've always been optimistic," McDaniels said at the NFL meetings. "He's on our team, he's under contract, and I understand there's things we have to work toward in our relationship."

"I've heard (Cutler's trade request), but have not heard it from him personally. No one has contacted me, called me, text-messaged or e-mailed me."

The 32-year-old McDaniels is in his

first head coaching job after serving as offensive coordinator for New England, where he developed the untested Cassel into a top quarterback in 2008. He's never denied that "conversations took place" this month about acquiring Cassel, nor does he apologize for them.

"You take into consideration what anybody is trying to offer up," he said. "If the quality of the trade you feel, in the long run, improves your team, you analyze it."

"It's been made very clear to me it's my job to listen to a number of scenarios that would improve the team."

McDaniels did wonder why Cutler insisted on having agent Bus Cook present when the coach and quarterback met face to face in Denver.

"One thing I continually want to do is meet with players one-on-one about myself, and find the best way to fix any issues," McDaniels said. "It's not an issue for an agent; we're not talking contract. It was not mutual. He invited his agent."

Cook did not immediately respond to messages left by The Associated Press.

Cutler did not show for the Broncos' first team meeting last week and hasn't participated in the team's offseason

program, which is voluntary.

McDaniels smiled when asked if this ordeal was difficult for a young, rookie head coach.

"You hope certain things don't get out before you have a chance to meet and explain them," he said. "So my attitude is I'm going to work hard to improve the team and in this case, the player, when I have an opportunity to, get to the point where he respects me for what I can do for him on the field. I hope that that's mutual."

Cutler has said he'll be at a mandatory minicamp April 17-19—if he's still a member of the Broncos. When asked if he envisions Cutler being the team's quarterback five weeks from now, McDaniels emphatically said, "Yes."

Cutler is halfway through the six-year, \$48 million contract he signed as the 11th overall pick out of Vanderbilt in the 2006 draft. He's 17-20 as Broncos starter, although that's misleading because of Denver's dismal defense. He's 13-1 in games in which Denver held its opponents under 21 points.

He was upset when Mike Shanahan was fired as coach, and even requested that members of Shanahan's offensive

staff be retained, which didn't happen.

"It's not an ideal situation, obviously," McDaniels said. "We want him to

be here, but it has to be two ways. It's a challenge for him. I understand the position he is in and I respect that."

## Police: Man hit by Stallworth wasn't in crosswalk

MIAMI (AP)—A pedestrian wasn't in a crosswalk when Cleveland Browns wide receiver Donte Stallworth hit and killed him with his Bentley, according to a report released Tuesday by police in Miami Beach.

According to the report, Stallworth told officers he flashed his lights to try to warn 59-year-old Mario Reyes, a construction crane operator who was rushing to catch a bus after getting off work around 7:15 a.m. March 14.

Police said Stallworth was driving about 50 mph in a 40 mph zone. They are investigating whether alcohol played a role in the accident. No charges have been filed against Stallworth pending the outcome of blood tests.

A police diagram shows that Reyes was hit in the far left lane of the six-lane MacArthur Causeway—not in a nearby crosswalk. Stallworth stopped a few feet away.

Police also released calls from three people who dialed 911 that morning.

The first, a woman, said, "There's a

man laying in the middle of the road." The dispatcher asked for her location and a description of the victim.

Then the woman blurted: "He's dead. He's dead ... He was just laying in the middle of the road. I think he's dead."

None of the callers apparently witnessed the accident. One man, saying he was on his way to work, said he "heard a hit" and then saw Reyes lying in the roadway. A few moments later, a police officer arrived.

Stallworth's attorney declined comment Tuesday but has said his client is cooperating with police. Stallworth last week released a statement saying he was "grief stricken" over the accident.

Stallworth signed a seven-year, \$35 million contract with the Browns before last season but was injured most of the year. He was scheduled to receive a \$4.75 million signing bonus the day before the accident. Before that, he played for New England, Philadelphia and New Orleans in the NFL and in college for Tennessee.



### NFL BRIEFS

#### Source: Chiefs TE Gonzalez wants trade

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Contrary to remarks by Kansas City owner Clark Hunt, Tony Gonzalez wants to be traded if the right deal can be made, a person close to the Pro Bowl tight end told The Associated Press on Tuesday. Asking not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the subject, the person said Gonzalez was surprised that Hunt had said the Chiefs were definitely not going to trade their 10-time Pro Bowler. "If the right deal can be made, Tony very much wants the Chiefs to trade him,"

the person said. "Tony is not demanding a trade. Tony cherishes the time he's spent with the Chiefs and he loves the way he's always been treated by the fans there. But he knows of some other teams that would be interested in him and if the right deal can be made, he wants it to be made."

#### Mangini will hold open QBs competition

DANA POINT, Calif. (AP)—Brady Quinn or Derek Anderson? Eric Mangini isn't sure, so he's throwing the Cleveland Browns quarterback job into a free-

for-all. "I don't have a projected starter at this point," Mangini said Tuesday at the NFL meetings. "What we're going to do is we'll have an open competition where they'll both get a chance to establish that they'll be the starter." Anderson, coming off a Pro Bowl season in 2007, opened last year as the starter. As the Browns struggled, he was benched for Quinn. Both quarterbacks subsequently were injured, and Mangini replaced Romeo Crennel as coach after Cleveland finished 4-12. Mangini, who was fired by the Jets after they collapsed from 8-3 to 9-7 and didn't make the playoffs, has

been on a quarterback carousel before. He had three starters in his three seasons in New York: Chad Pennington, Kellen Clemens and Brett Favre.

#### Browns' Rogers reports for workouts

CLEVELAND (AP)—Cleveland Browns Pro Bowl nose tackle Shaun Rogers is taking part in the club's voluntary offseason workout program after missing the first week in an apparent rift with new coach Eric Mangini. In a video clip on the team's Web site, Rogers is shown shaking hands and hug-

ging a teammate in the weight room at the Browns' training facility in Berea. Mangini said at the owner's meetings in California that he has spoken with Rogers, who had reportedly asked to be traded or released. Rogers made the Pro Bowl in his first season with Cleveland. The Browns acquired the 6-foot-4, 350-pounder in a trade last March with Detroit for cornerback Leigh Bodden. He arrived with a reputation of being uncooperative with the media, overweight and having a poor work ethic. However, the 30-year-old was no trouble and had a solid first season.







# 2009 PIC Bike For Life Race

Photos By  
NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



Participants are all smiles after the successful first staging of the 2009 PIC Bike For Life Race organized by Rommell Bartolo, PIC assistant restaurant manager for Seaside Grill Restaurant and the Bar.



Lone female rider Kimiko Hasegawa completes the race.



Volunteers from different departments of Pacific Islands Club Saipan register the time for each arriving rider.



Two cyclists are on their way back, while another passes them on his way to the finish line.



The first two finishers, Ric Antonio, right, and James Abuy, wave as they approach the finish line in Paupau.



One of the riders comes in after the 20-kilometer bike race.



The first rider to return from the Bird Island negotiates a zigzag.



A rider checks the chain of his bike.



Participants descend near the junction to Suicide Cliff.



One of the riders takes time to pose with volunteers at the turn in Bird Island.





## Japanese youth cagers to test mettle of NMI bets

Japan's Settsu Red Impulse Basketball Club arrived on Saipan yesterday and will see action in the two-day Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Lakers rest starters in blowout of Thunder

Kobe Bryant scored 19 points before taking the fourth quarter off, and the Los Angeles Lakers cruised to a 107-89 win against the Oklahoma City Thunder on Tuesday night.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Dollar Days completes Navy Hill semis cast

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**D**ollar Days banked on its 3-point shooting to cruise to an easy 91-72 playoff win over IT&E in the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League Tuesday night at the Gaparan Basketball Court. The victory moved Dollar Days to the semifinals, join-



ing early qualifiers KFC/Taco Bell, Athlete's Foot, and Incheape.

Triples were raining on Dollar Days' court in the first half, helping the team seize early control of the match. Dollar Days had seven 3-pointers in the first half and nine in the entire game.

Wowie Abuel, Jun Pantaleon, and Bon Tamayo had one triple apiece in the first period, which ended with

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Dollar Days' Jun Pantaleon, right, goes up for a fastbreak layup against IT&E's Brendo Talania during their playoff game in the Navy Hill caging Tuesday night at the Gaparan Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## Jets, Red Sox defeat rivals in SLLB

Keene Deleon Guerrero, seen here pitching for the Red Sox, scored two runs against the Falcons last Sunday.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League.

With the Jets batters hitting against a team with struggling



pitchers, the Jets zoomed to a 7-0 lead in the top of the second inning en route to their fifth win in six games. The run was capped by an inside-the-park solo homerun in the sixth inning.

The team is handled by Derron Flores, Joey Dela Cruz, and Joseph Deleon Guerrero. The Jets is sponsored by Juan S. Tenorio and Pacific Amusement.

The roster is led by Jose Lizama Jr., the division's leader in batting percentage with an average of .800 after the first three weeks of the season.

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## Falcons defang Tigers in rout, 18-8

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
n\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The Falcons streaked to their third win as they routed the Tigers, 18-8, last Friday in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Two homeruns highlighted a 15-hit performance by the Falcons, who are now 3-1 in the company of Rock Steady, Ford Rangers and D-9ers.

The Tigers suffered their third straight setback and are now 1-3.

The Falcons quickly erased a 1-4 deficit after two full innings with five runs in the bottom of the second for a 6-4 lead and strolled to victory after that.

B.J. Sablan hit a two-run homer in third and J.D. Dikito also came up with a two-run, inside-the-park homerun that capped a five-run burst in the fifth inning.

The Falcons surged ahead with three runs in the sixth

and two in the seventh on the way to creating a four-way tie of the lead.

The Tigers managed four runs of five hits on a one-out count against the Falcons' reliever Pete Teigita in the top of seventh but hardly changed the result of the match.

After Manny Tenorio's second run and the Tigers' last of the game, Mel Martin walked on a low pitch, Bob O'Connor singled on a grounder to left field, and Mabel Ngirngemelas reached base on an error at second that had the bases loaded.

But Teigita let the batters swing their bats and retired Joe Tenorio and Manny Cabrera in succession via flyouts.

In the bottom of the seventh, Jerald Jones scored for the Falcons on a passed ball to start the inning.

After Mike Pangelinan flied out to right field, B.J. Sablan went to first on a base on ball and Leo Dikito clinched the win on a single to left that sent the big slugger home.

Starting pitcher Hans Pua struck out two, walked five, gave up four runs on six hits, and committed three

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NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

B.J. Sablan is congratulated by teammates after the Falcon's first baseman hit a two-run homerun in the bottom of the third inning of their 18-8 win against Tigers last Friday in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League.

## Runnin' Rebels dominate statistics

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The Runnin' Rebels' individual talents were in full display in the list of final statistical leaders released by organizers of the 2008-2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League.

Forward Sylvan Teregeyo emerged as the top rebounder in the regular season, collaring 105 rebounds in 12 games,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Runnin' Rebels' Syl Teregeyo, seen here beating a Docomo player in a rebound play, was crowned rebound king in the Budweiser caging.